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AUG
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HULK 2099
DOOM...
AND INTRODUCING Galahad 2099
DIRECT EDITION

I WAS A WEASEL HOLLYWOOD GREEDHEAD.
I BETRAYED A BUNCH OF PEOPLE CALLED THE KNIGHTS OF THE BANNER TO GET A STORY FOR VIRTUAL REALITY EXPLOITATION.
IF I'M EVER GOING TO WIPE THE BLOOD OFF MY GREEN HANDS I'VE GOT TO SAVE GAWAIN. I'VE BEEN HUNTING GOLD FOR WEEKS. YESTERDAY A MUTATED BULLY-BOY NAMED VULX TRIED TO STOP ME -- BY KILLING ME.
NOW I'M MAD. AND I'M CLOSE.
I CAN SMELL IT.
THEY GOT KILLED. I GOT STRONG. AND A KID NAMED GAWAIN WHO TRUSTED ME GOT KIDNAPPED.
THE POND-SUCKER WHO NABBED HIM IS AN UNDERGROUND GENETICIST CALLED GOLD. HE THINKS GAWAIN CAN TELL HIM ABOUT THE GAMMA-POWER THAT MADE ME THE HULK.

STAN LEE PRESENTS

HULK

THE PRICE OF PERFECTION

GERARD JONES WRITER | KHATO ARTIST | STARKINGS W/O'NEIL LETTERERS | TOM SMITH COLORIST | EDITOR JOEY CAVALIERI | TOM DeFALCO LEADER

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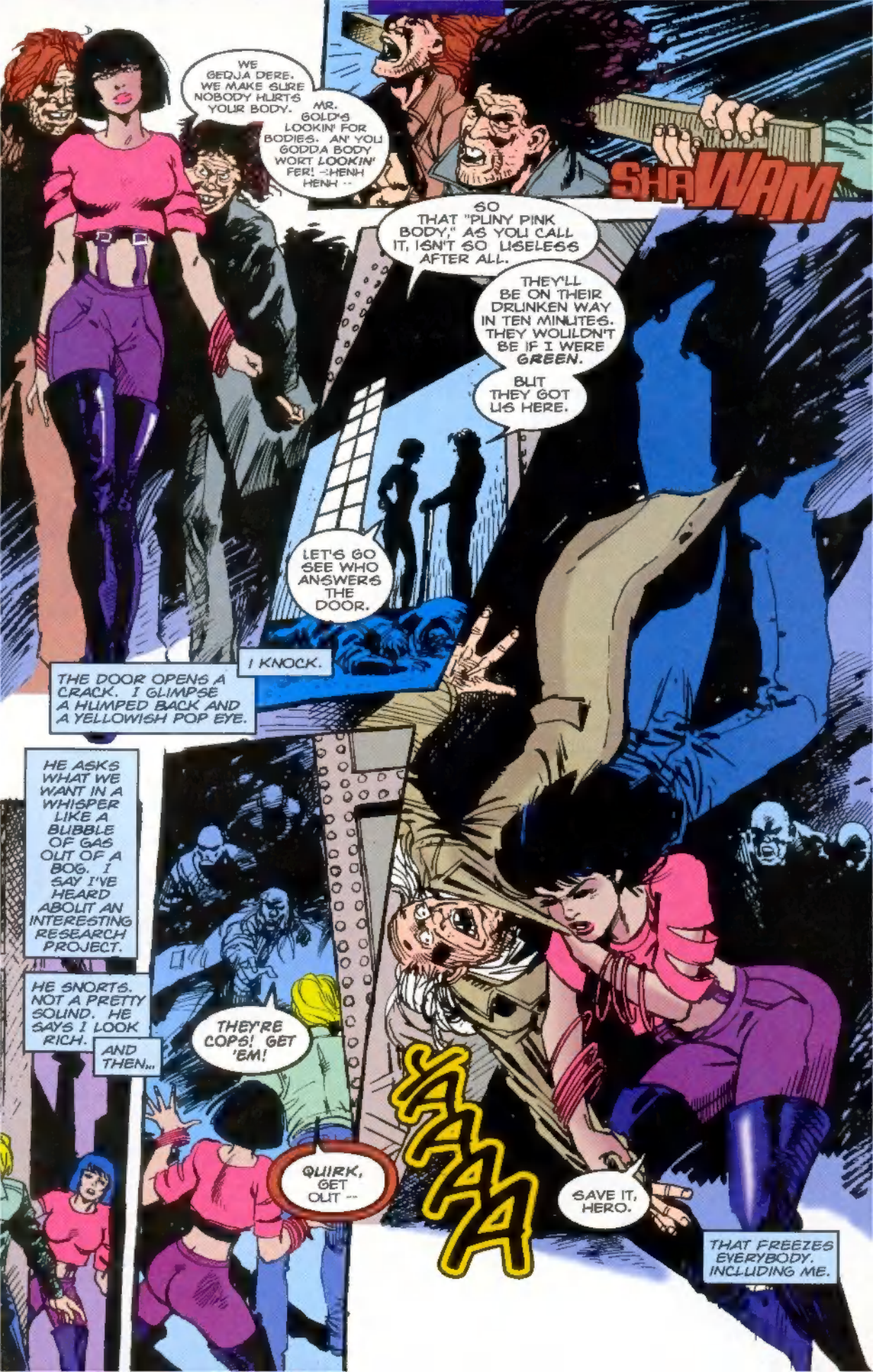
MAYBE IT'S THE WHARF I SMELL. ROTTEN PIERS IN POLLUTED OCEAN.
ROTTEN BODIES WITH POLLUTED DREAMS.
TIME TO FIT IN. TIME TO BE HUMAN.
GYAARH!
I DON'T LIKE IT.
SHE DISCOVERED A FREAK NAMED "GOLD" WAS HIRING DRUNKEN SAILORS AND BUMS TO BRING HIM HEALTHY YOUNG VOLUNTEERS.
I GET OUT OF SIGHT WHILE SHE DOES HEALTHY AND YOUNG LIKE ONLY SHE CAN.
QUIRK NEARLY GOT HERSELF KILLED BY TELLING THE TRUTH, AND I'VE BEEN PROTECTING HER EVER SINCE.
WHY... WHY...
I DON'T WANT TO SCARE 'EM AWAY, QUIRK. I'VE GOT TO PLAY THE SLIMY HUMAN GAME AGAIN. AND YOU'VE GOT TO PLAY IT WITH ME.
SLIMY HUMAN? NO PROBLEM. I'M IN SHOW BIZ, REMEMBER?
-:HENH:- YOU WANGO SOMEPLACE 'ITH ME? I KNOW A PLACE WHUR DEY T'ROW CATS IN A SHARK-TANK!
OH, THAT SOUNDS SO FUN! BUT I HAVE TO RUN AN ERRAND FIRST, TO SEE A MR. GOLD ABOUT A RESEARCH PROJECT.

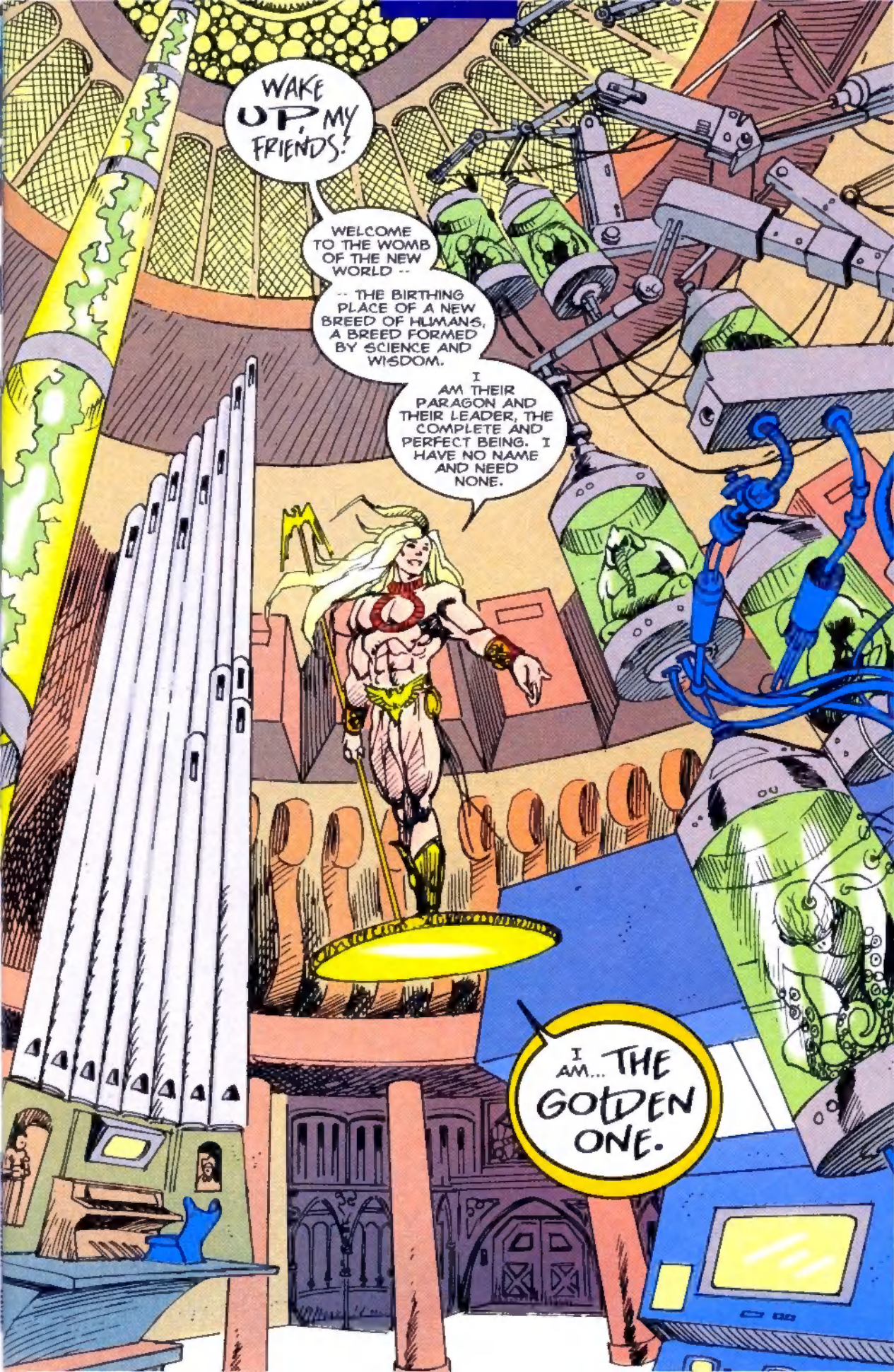

WE GEDJA DERE. WE MAKE SURE NOBODY HURTS YOUR BODY.
MR. GOLD'S LOOKIN' FOR BODIES. AN' YOU GODDA BODY WORT LOOKIN' FER! -HENH HENH --
SHAWAM
SO THAT "PUNY PINK BODY," AS YOU CALL IT, ISN'T SO USELESS AFTER ALL.
THEY'LL BE ON THEIR DRUNKEN WAY IN TEN MINUTES. THEY WOULDN'T BE IF I WERE GREEN.
BUT THEY GOT US HERE.
LET'S GO SEE WHO ANSWERS THE DOOR.
I KNOCK.
THE DOOR OPENS A CRACK. I GLIMPSE A HUMPED BACK AND A YELLOWISH POP EYE.
HE ASKS WHAT WE WANT IN A WHISPER LIKE A BUBBLE OF GAS OUT OF A BOG. I SAY I'VE HEARD ABOUT AN INTERESTING RESEARCH PROJECT.
HE SNORTS. NOT A PRETTY SOUND. HE SAYS I LOOK RICH.
AND THEN...
THEY'RE COPS! GET 'EM!
QUIRK, GET OUT --
YAAA
SAVE IT, HERO.
THAT FREEZES EVERYBODY. INCLUDING ME.

BUT IT GIVES ME TIME TO START TALKING.
THAT'S THE ONE THING HOLLYWOOD TEACHES YOU.
ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE TALKING LIES.
CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR THINKING I'M A FAKE -- 'CAUSE I AM! I'M BUYING STORIES FOR V.R. PIX AND THERE'S MONEY FOR ANYBODY WITH TALES TO TELL.
PLUS A FEW COMNUMBERS FOR YOUNG ACTRESSES, HM?
THEY LED US IN, SAYING THEIR BOSS MIGHT WANT TO MAKE A DEAL.
WHERE'D YOU LEARN THAT MOVE, GIRL?
IF I'M GOING TO HANG WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU, I'D BETTER LEARN SOME MOVES.
WHY'S SHE DOING THIS --
-- WALKING INTO THE STINKING PITS OF HUMAN GREED TO HELP A KID SHE'S NEVER MET?
AND I'M LEADING HER INTO IT. MAYBE INTO A TRAP. SUDDENLY I WANT TO RISE ABOVE THE PITS, SMASH THESE ROTTEN WALLS AND LET THE AIR IN --
BE THE HULK!
BUT I'VE GOT TO CONTAIN IT. PLAY THE GAME A LITTLE LONGER.
HYEEEEEEE
LET 'EM SPRING THE TRAP!

huh huh
JOHN!
FFFFFFORGET HER, BOY. FFFFFEX HAS HER NOW! AND TORG HHHHAS YOU!
WE'VE BEEN READY FOR TRICKSSS LIKE YOURS! YOU'LL GET SOME ANSWERSSSSS PULLED OUT OF YOU NOW!
AND MAYBE A LOT MORE!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
FUNNY.
BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING EVEN FUNNIER!
WHAT --?
GYAARH!

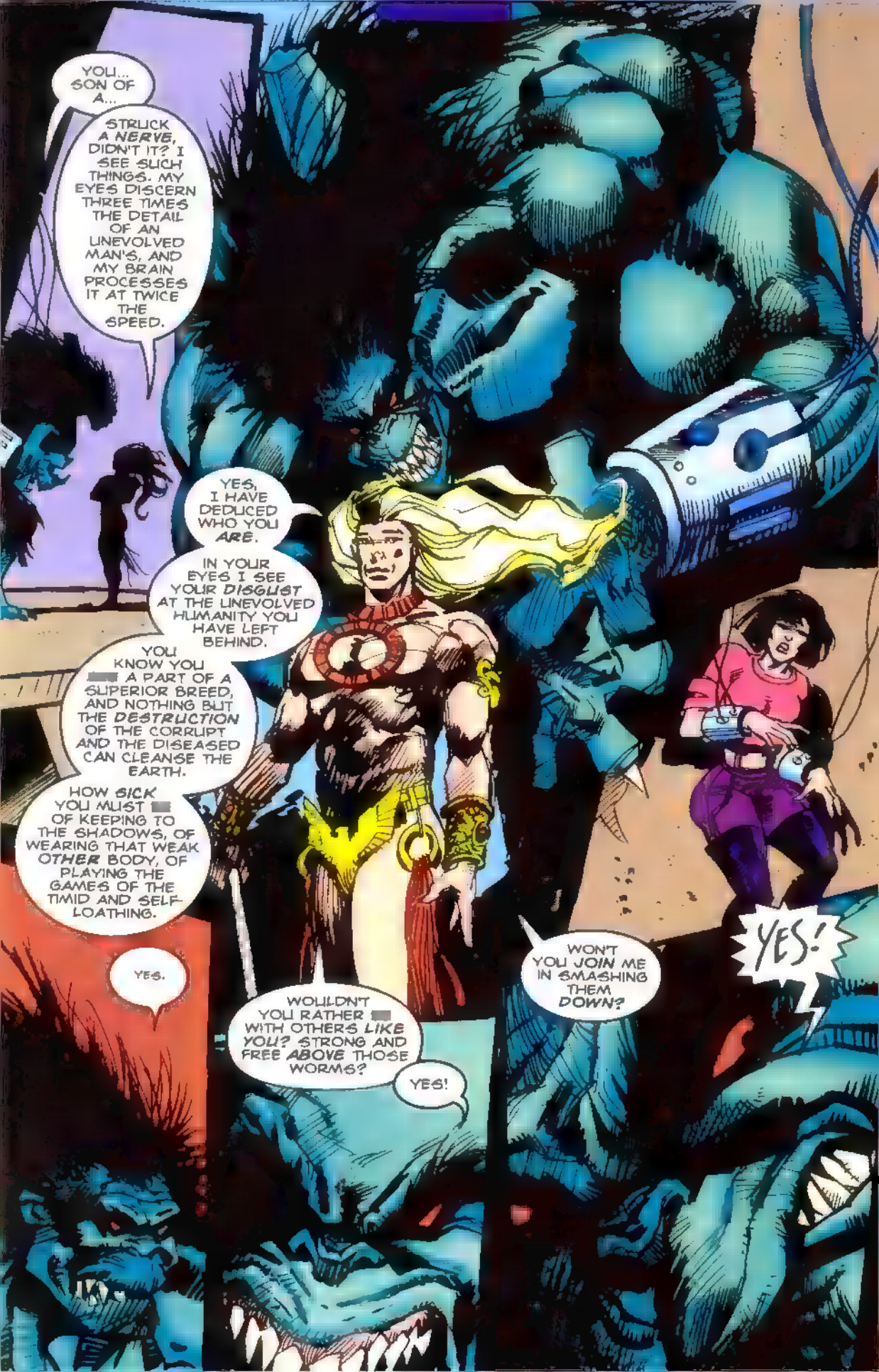
LAUGH THIS OFF!
FOMP
BEAT IT, QUIRK! YOU PLAYED YOUR ROLE GREAT --
SMAK
-- NOW IT'S MY SHOW!
NUH-HOOOO, BABY.
OURRR SHOW!
TRAPS ON TOP OF TRAPS.
NONE OF THEM STRONG ENOUGH ALONE, BUT TOGETHER --

WHOOM
SOMETHING HITS MY SPINE, LIKE A SHOCK THROUGH EVERY MUSCLE.
I TRY TO MOVE, BUT I CAN'T. SOMEBODY KNOWS WHERE TO HIT.
IT'S MY MOTTO. "ALWAYS LEARN FROM PAST DEFEATS."
VULX!
HIS HISS IS THE LAST SOUND I MAKE OUT.
DARKNESS CARRIES ME AWAY, OR MAYBE IT'S THEM.


WAKE UP, MY FRIENDS!
WELCOME TO THE WOMB OF THE NEW WORLD --
-- THE BIRTHING PLACE OF A NEW BREED OF HUMANS, A BREED FORMED BY SCIENCE AND WISDOM.
I AM THEIR PARAGON AND THEIR LEADER, THE COMPLETE AND PERFECT BEING. I HAVE NO NAME AND NEED NONE.
I AM... THE GOLDEN ONE.

AND I'M THE GREEN ONE. GUESS SOMEBODY FORGOT TO POLISH ME.
YOU NEED NONE. YOU ARE MAGNIFICENT AS YOU ARE.
I NEVER DREAMED I'D HAVE TO USE SO MUCH POWER TO PARALYZE YOU. OH, I'D HEARD THE URBAN LEGENDS ABOUT THE GREAT GREEN MONSTER...
...BUT I NEVER DREAMED THE REALITY WOULD BE SO IMPRESSIVE!
YOU WANT TO SEE SOMETHING IMPRESSIVE? LET HIM OUT OF THOSE SHACKLES!
I HOPE I CAN. I HOPE YOU WILL BE MY ALLY, NOT MY ENEMY.
I'M READING YOUR MUSCLE-MASS PER CUBIC CENTIMETER, YOUR POTENTIAL ENERGY, YOUR METABOLISM...
81X(1) / X² (42Y²)
2√77 / 9(3) - 9 / √90√1
2√42 - 16 / 51X² - 2X
3√91 / 27 - 23X / 22√67
I HAD NO IDEA THAT SCIENCE COULD MAKE A BEING SO AWESOME! MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN STRIVING TO CREATE SUCH POWER FOR DECADES...AND SUDDENLY IT WALKS RIGHT IN ON US.
YOU'VE BROUGHT US TEN STEPS CLOSER TO REPLACING THE ACCIDENTALS.
"ACCIDENTALS."
YOU MEAN PEOPLE, DON'T YOU? PEOPLE WHO AREN'T SCIENTIFICALLY BRED.

DECADES AGO, SCIENTISTS SAW MANKIND DECLINING...
"...SAW THE MINDLESS OFFICE DRONE, THE CRIMINAL AND THE WELFARE LEECH BECOMING THE HUMAN NORM.
"IN MY PERFECTION I SAW THAT ONLY I COULD LEAD A PROJECT OF SUCH IMPORTANCE.
"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO CREATING THE PERFECT HUMAN. FINALLY THEY SUCCEEDED. THEY CREATED ME.
"I SOON GOT MY CREATORS OUT OF THE WAY...WITH THE SEETHING ENERGIES OF MY OWN BODY!
"NOW I CREATE NEW BEINGS TO AID ME IN MY EVENTUAL MASTERY OF THE DEGENERATE ACCIDENTALS!"
BUT THOUGH THEY ARE FEARSOME FIGHTERS, THEY ARE FAR FROM MY PERFECTION. I GIVE THEM UGLY NAMES LIKE VULX AND FEX TO REMIND THEM OF THEIR HIDEOUSNESS.
SO YOU KIDNAPPED A BOY TO SEE IF YOU COULD SQUEEZE INFORMATION OUT OF HIM ABOUT THE RESEARCH HIS ELDERS WERE DOING.
IF WE HADN'T, WHERE WOULD HE BE? IN THE HANDS OF THE CHAOTIC, MORONIC "LEGAL" SYSTEM OF THE ACCIDENTALS.
OR AT THE MERCY OF THE HOLLYWOOD EXPLOITER WHO ALLOWED THE BOY'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO [redacted] KILLED!


YOU... SON OF A...
STRUCK A NERVE, DIDN'T IT? I SEE SUCH THINGS. MY EYES DISCERN THREE TIMES THE DETAIL OF AN UNEVOLVED MAN'S, AND MY BRAIN PROCESSES IT AT TWICE THE SPEED.
YES, I HAVE DEDUCED WHO YOU ARE.
IN YOUR EYES I SEE YOUR DISGUST AT THE UNEVOLVED HUMANITY YOU HAVE LEFT BEHIND.
YOU KNOW YOU [redacted] A PART OF A SUPERIOR BREED, AND NOTHING BUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CORRUPT AND THE DISEASED CAN CLEANSE THE EARTH.
HOW SICK YOU MUST [redacted] OF KEEPING TO THE SHADOWS, OF WEARING THAT WEAK OTHER BODY, OF PLAYING THE GAMES OF THE TIMID AND SELF-LOATHING.
YES.
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER [redacted] WITH OTHERS LIKE YOU? STRONG AND FREE ABOVE THOSE WORMS?
YES!
WON'T YOU JOIN ME IN SMASHING THEM DOWN?
YES!

YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!
WHAT IS THERE ABOUT MANKIND WORTH SAVING?
AREN'T YOU ON A HIT-LIST, LIVING IN FEAR, JUST BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CORRUPTION IN THIS WORLD?
TELL ME WHY I SHOULD CARE ABOUT MANKIND, QUIRK!
I...
I GUESS I... CAN'T.
SO WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING? WHAT ABOUT THIS NEW WORLD OF YOURS?
[redacted] TIME. BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO TELL [redacted] SOME THINGS. HOW DO WE MAKE MORE LIKE YOU?
I DON'T KNOW THE SCIENCE. BUT THE KID GAWAIN DOES. AND I KNOW HOW TO FORCE IT OUT OF HIM.
THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO SUCCEED WHERE I HAVE FAILED.
I'VE BEEN PICKING AT HIS BRAIN AND BODY FOR ANY CLUE TO WHAT THE KNIGHTS OF THE BANNER DISCOVERED...

HEH... HELP... MEEEH...
GAWAIN!
...AND YOU'LL FIND THAT THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT OF EITHER OF THEM!
YOU AND YOUR STUPID CULT! THINKING YOU COULD IMPROVE MANKIND WITH YOUR FEEBLE RITUALS AND YOUR FEEBLE BODIES!
THINKING YOU COULD MASTER THE POWER OF THE LEGENDARY HULK!
ENCODING INFORMATION INTO YOUR UNCONSCIOUS MINDS, RELEASABLE ONLY BY A SECRET PRESSURE POINT!
SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS! HOW QUAINT! HOW... HUMAN!
DESCRIBE THIS PRESSURE POINT, HULK! I'LL U[redacted] IT ON HIM!

I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT. BUT I CAN DO IT.
CAN I TRUST YOU WITH A HAND FREE?
I CAN! FOR YOU HAVE SEEN THE TRUTH!
ONE MANACLE IS DISCONNECTED!
THANKS, GOLDIE.
SNAK
THAT'S ALL I NEEDED!

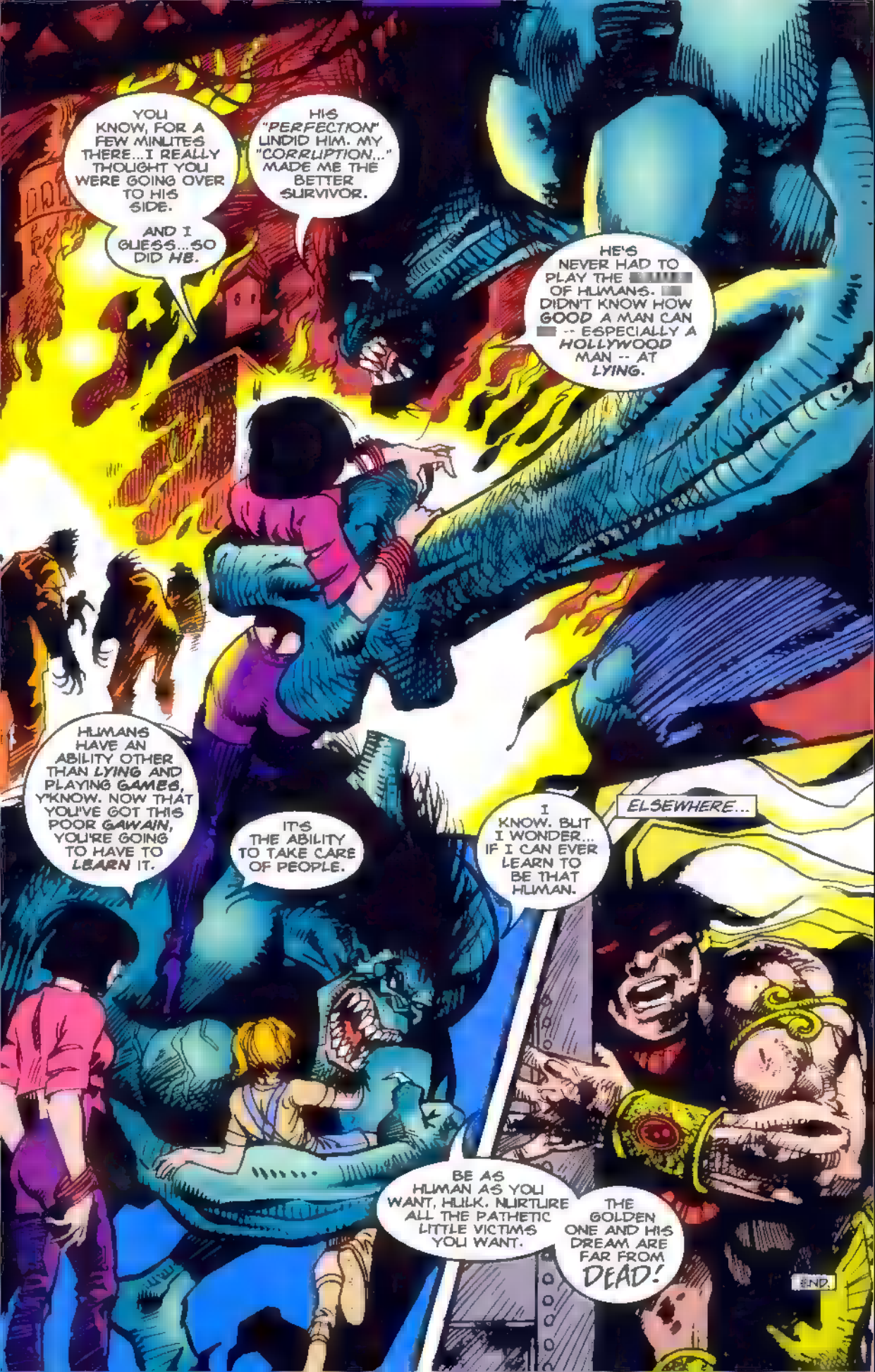
MY RUSE IS OVER. THE FREAKS ARE ON ME IN A SECOND.
LIKE MOSQUITOES.
HYEEEEE
HISSSS
THIS TIME I ATTACK 'EM LIKE MOSQUITOES. NOT ALL AT ONCE, LETTING THEM CONFUSE [redacted] --

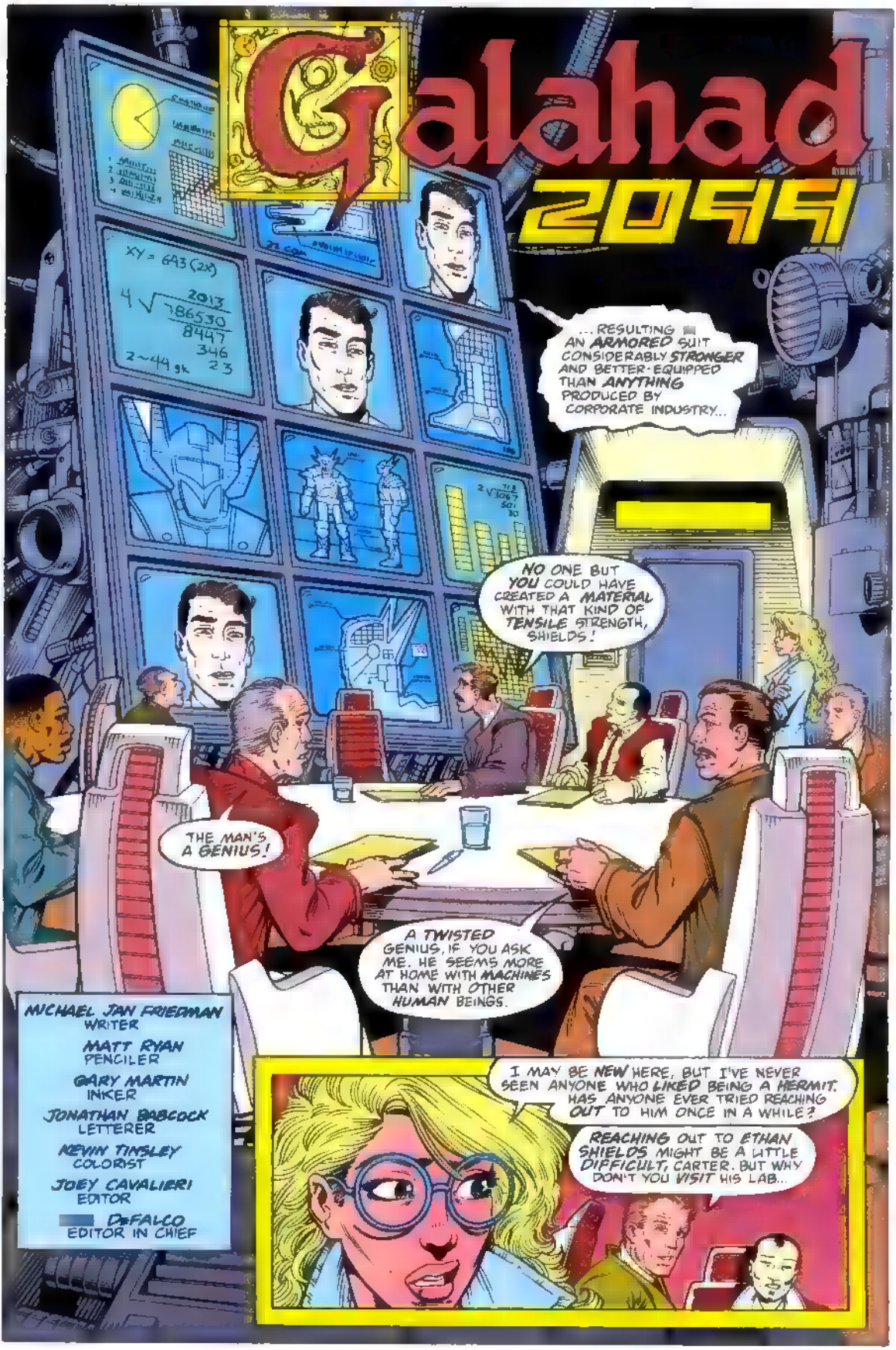
-- BUT ONE AT A TIME.
KSSHH
WITH GOOD AIM I CAN TAKE OUT A FEW EXPERIMENTS.
NOT TO MENTION VULX.
THOMP
YAAAAAA
WHUMP

STOP HIM!
STOP HIM!
Huh?
POWER'S OUT...AND MY MANACLE'S...
HOO-HAH!
OH, JEEZ. NO POWER. THE FLOATING TABLE...
...IT'S DROPPING!
BUT I GOTCHA, KIDDO!
QUIRK'S GOTCHA.

THE MAN HIMSELF.
IF HE IS A MAN. MAN, WOMAN, ALL RACES, EVERYTHING COMBINED. DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
HE'S FAST, HE'S STRONG...
JUST NOT ENOUGH.
HYAAH!
TOOM
STOOGE OF THE ACCIDENTALS -- YOU WILL NOT TAKE MY PROJECT!
I WILL NOT HAVE CORRUPT LITTLE WORMS CRAWLING OVER IT, POLLUTING IT!
I WILL NOT!

THE WHOLE PLACE IS BURNING! YOU'VE GOTTA GET US --
OUT!
FWOOOOSH
BWOOOM


YOU KNOW, FOR A FEW MINUTES THERE...I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING OVER TO HIS SIDE.
AND I GUESS...SO DID HE.
HIS "PERFECTION" UNDID HIM. MY "CORRUPTION..." MADE ME THE BETTER SURVIVOR.
HE'S NEVER HAD TO PLAY THE [redacted] OF HUMANS. [redacted] DIDN'T KNOW HOW GOOD A MAN CAN [redacted] -- ESPECIALLY A HOLLYWOOD MAN -- AT LYING.
HUMANS HAVE AN ABILITY OTHER THAN LYING AND PLAYING GAMES, Y'KNOW. NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT THIS POOR GAWAIN, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN IT.
IT'S THE ABILITY TO TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE.
I KNOW. BUT I WONDER... IF I CAN EVER LEARN TO BE THAT HUMAN.
ELSEWHERE...
BE AS HUMAN AS YOU WANT, HULK. NURTURE ALL THE PATHETIC LITTLE VICTIMS YOU WANT.
THE GOLDEN ONE AND HIS DREAM ARE FAR FROM DEAD!
END.


Galahad 2099
...RESULTING IN AN ARMORED SUIT CONSIDERABLY STRONGER AND BETTER-EQUIPPED THAN ANYTHING PRODUCED BY CORPORATE INDUSTRY...
NO ONE BUT YOU COULD HAVE CREATED A MATERIAL WITH THAT KIND OF TENSILE STRENGTH, SHIELDS!
THE MAN'S A GENIUS!
A TWISTED GENIUS, IF YOU ASK ME. HE SEEMS MORE AT HOME WITH MACHINES THAN WITH OTHER HUMAN BEINGS.
I MAY BE NEW HERE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE WHO LIKED BEING A HERMIT. HAS ANYONE EVER TRIED REACHING OUT TO HIM ONCE IN A WHILE?
REACHING OUT TO ETHAN SHIELDS MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT, CARTER. BUT WHY DON'T YOU VISIT HIS LAB...
MICHAEL JAN FRIEDMAN
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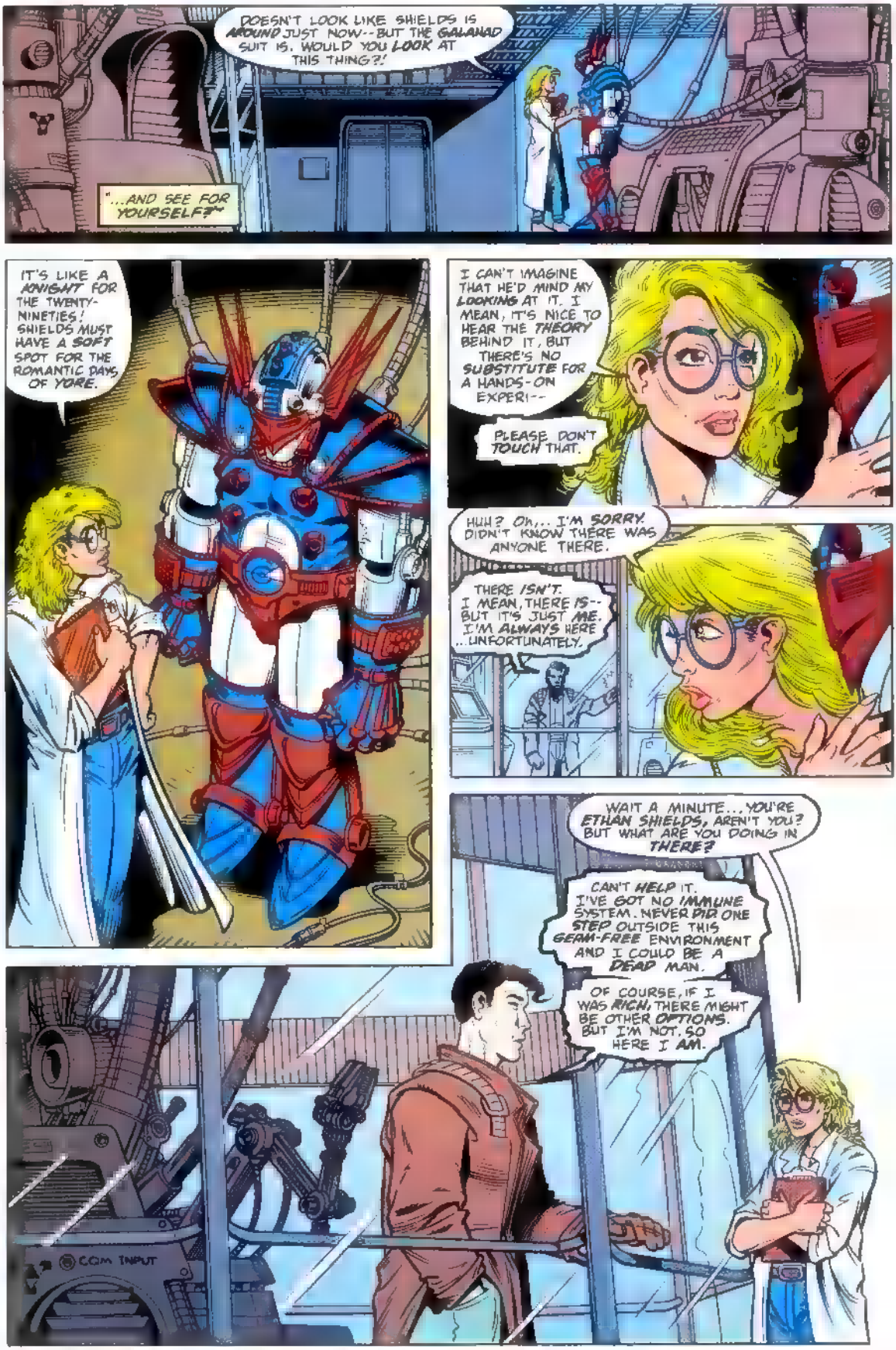
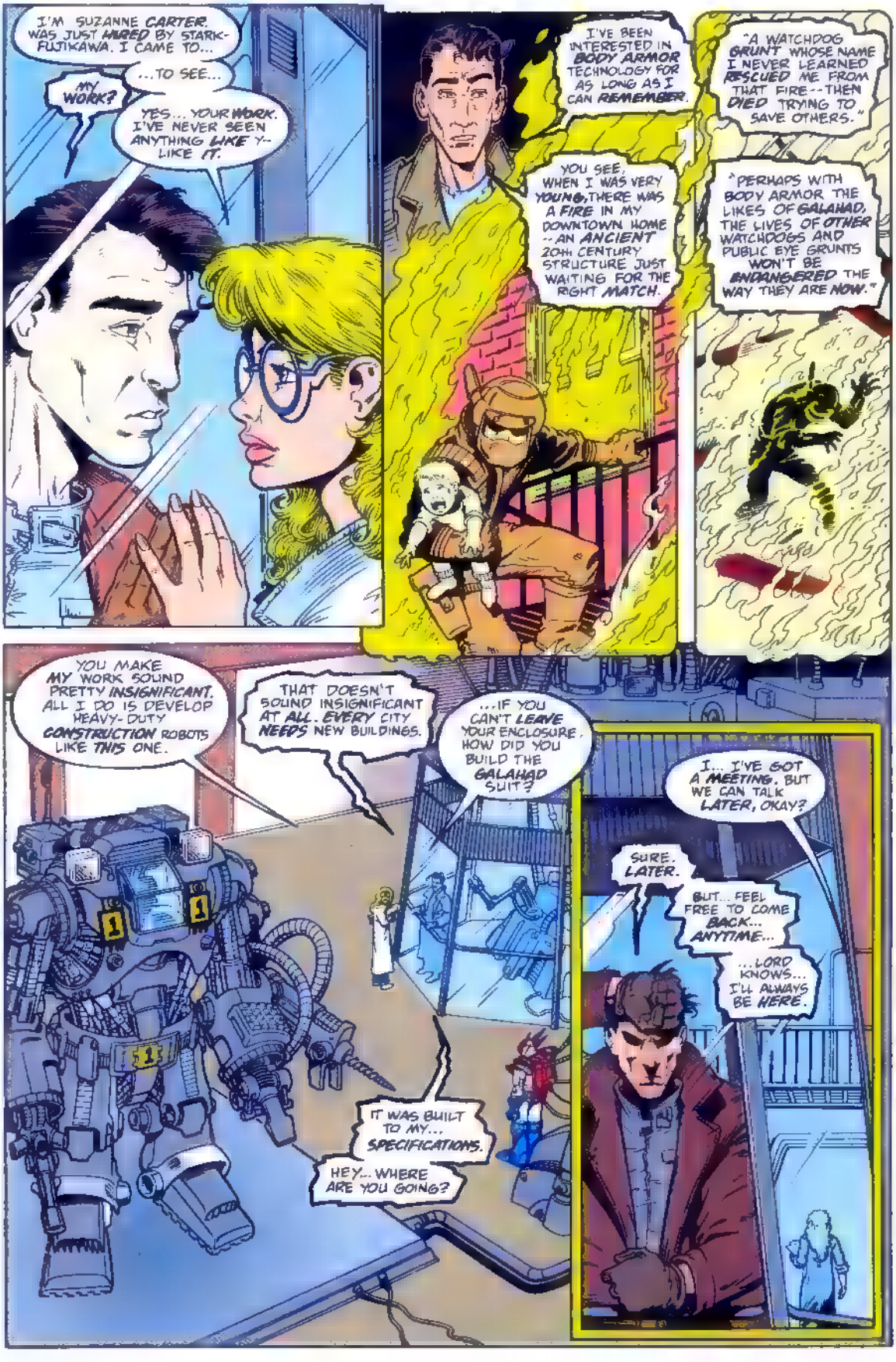
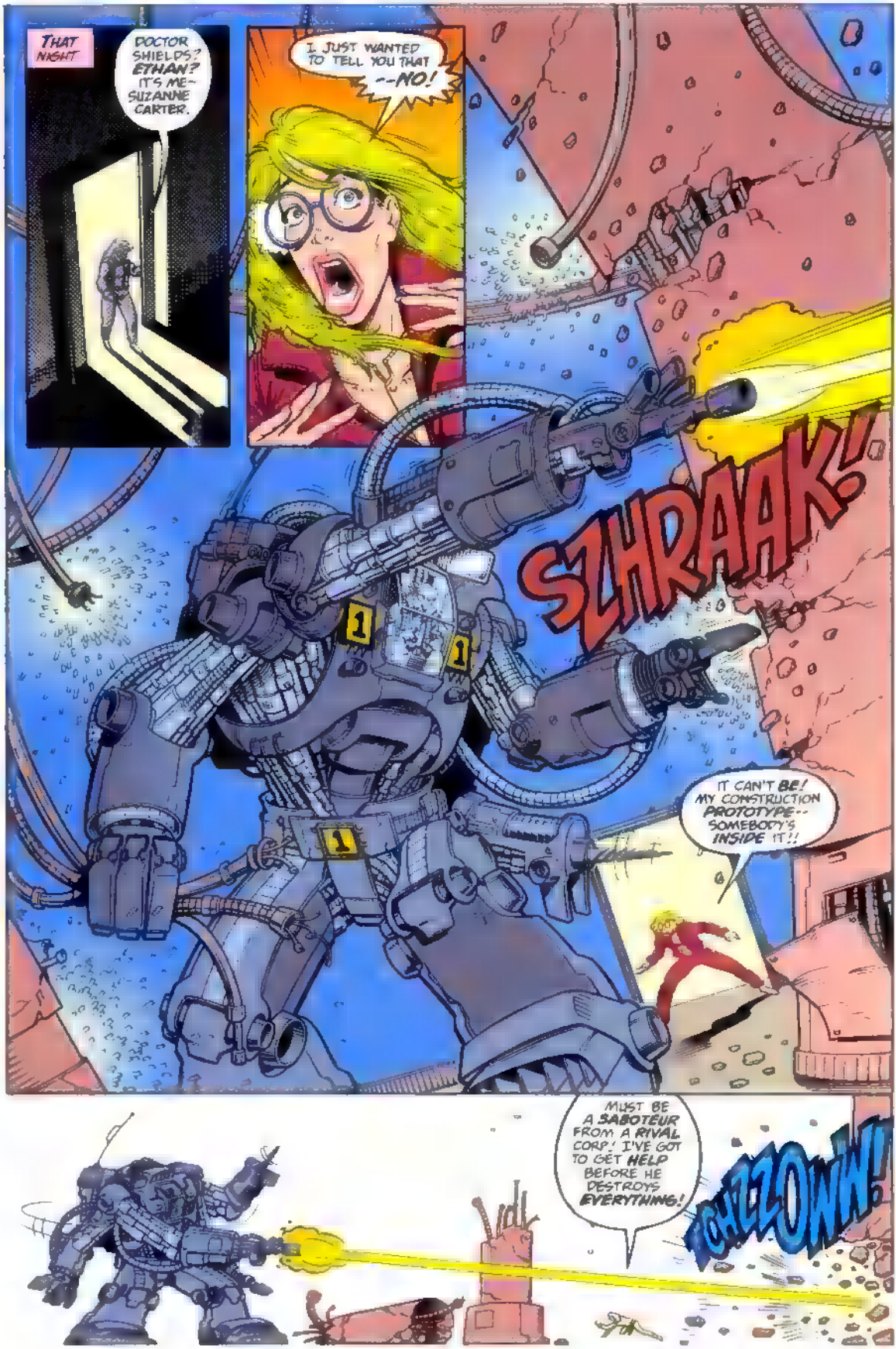
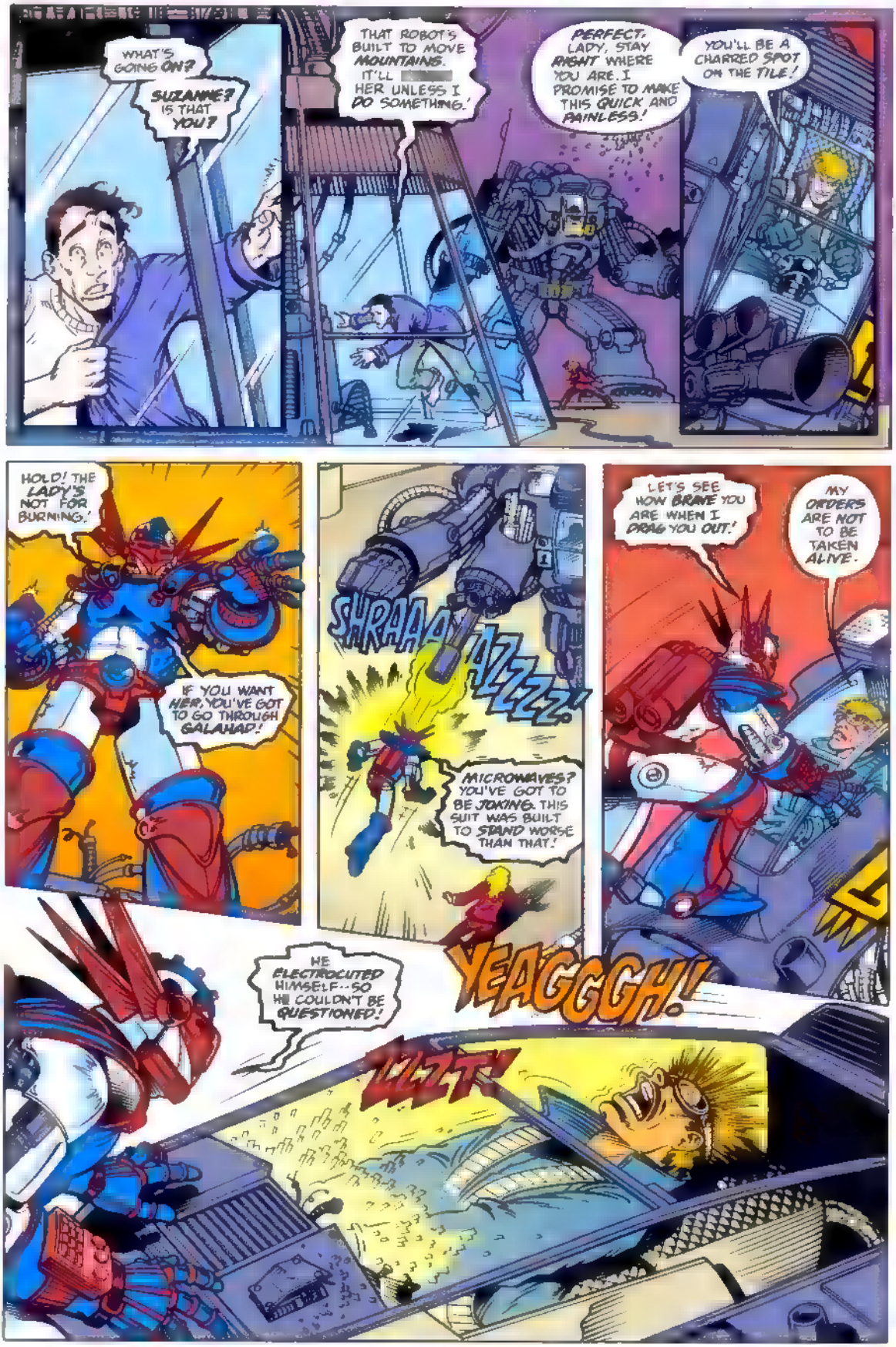
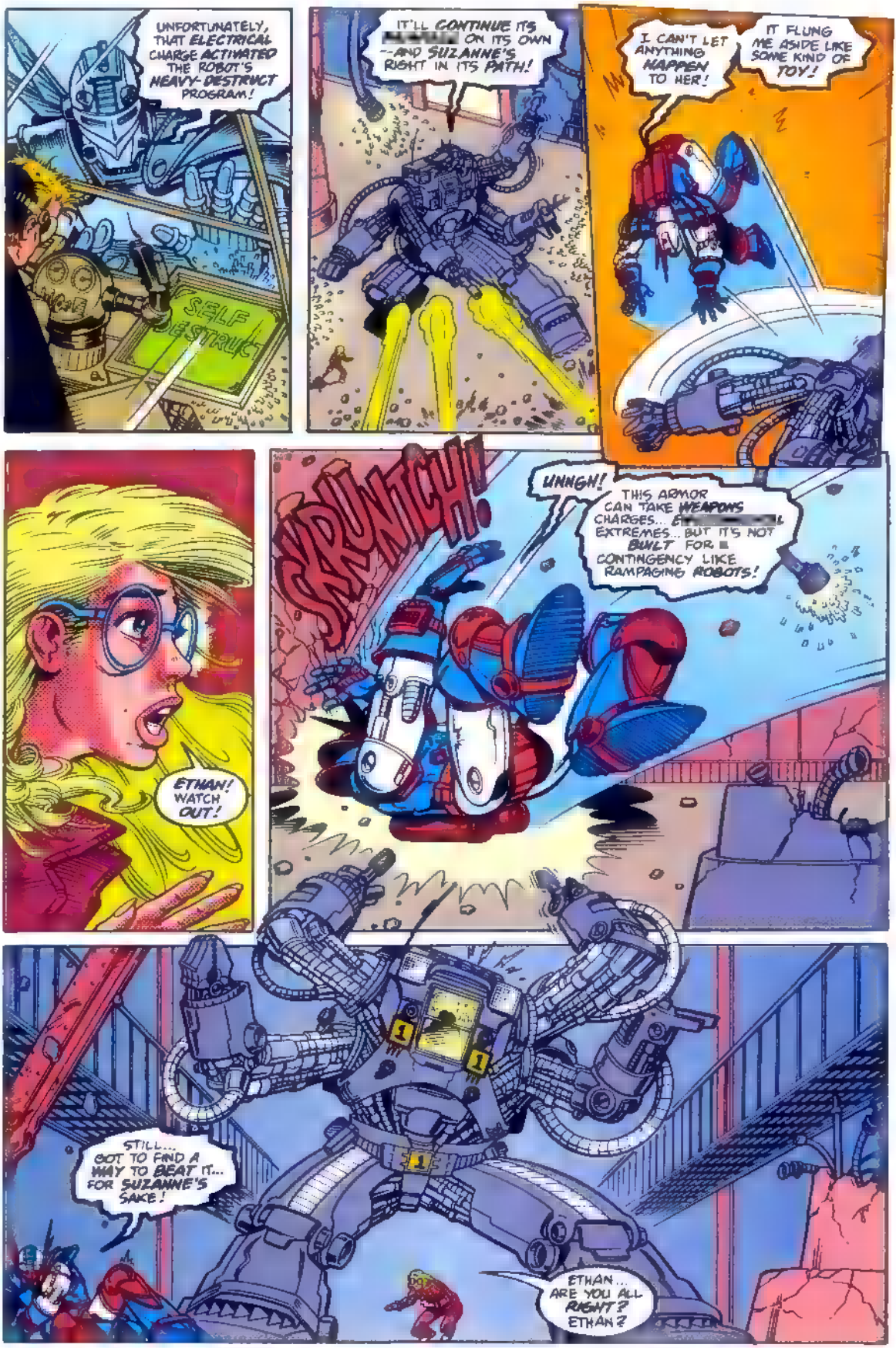
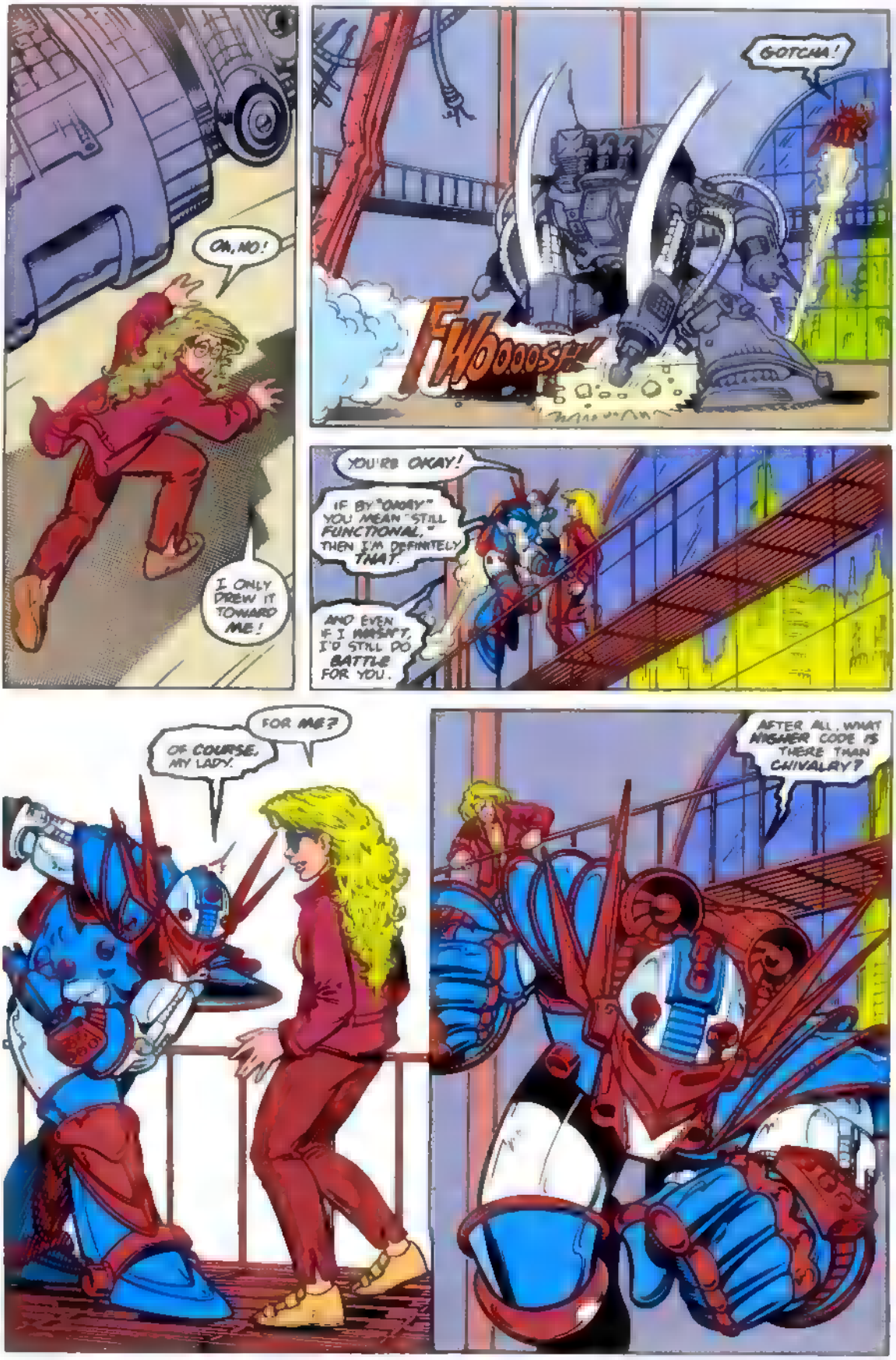

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHIELDS IS AROUND JUST NOW--BUT THE GALAHAD SUIT IS. WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS THING?!
"...AND SEE FOR YOURSELF?"
IT'S LIKE A KNIGHT FOR THE TWENTY-NINETIES! SHIELDS MUST HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR THE ROMANTIC DAYS OF YORE.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE'D MIND MY LOOKING AT IT. I MEAN, IT'S NICE TO HEAR THE THEORY BEHIND IT, BUT THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A HANDS-ON EXPERI--
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THAT.
HUH? OH,.. I'M SORRY. DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS ANYONE THERE.
THERE ISN'T. I MEAN, THERE IS-- BUT IT'S JUST ME. I'M ALWAYS HERE ..UNFORTUNATELY.
WAIT A MINUTE... YOU'RE ETHAN SHIELDS, AREN'T YOU? BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?
CAN'T HELP IT. I'VE GOT NO IMMUNE SYSTEM. NEVER DID ONE STEP OUTSIDE THIS GERM-FREE ENVIRONMENT AND I COULD BE A DEAD MAN.
OF COURSE, IF I WAS RICH, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER OPTIONS. BUT I'M NOT. SO HERE I AM.
COM INPUT

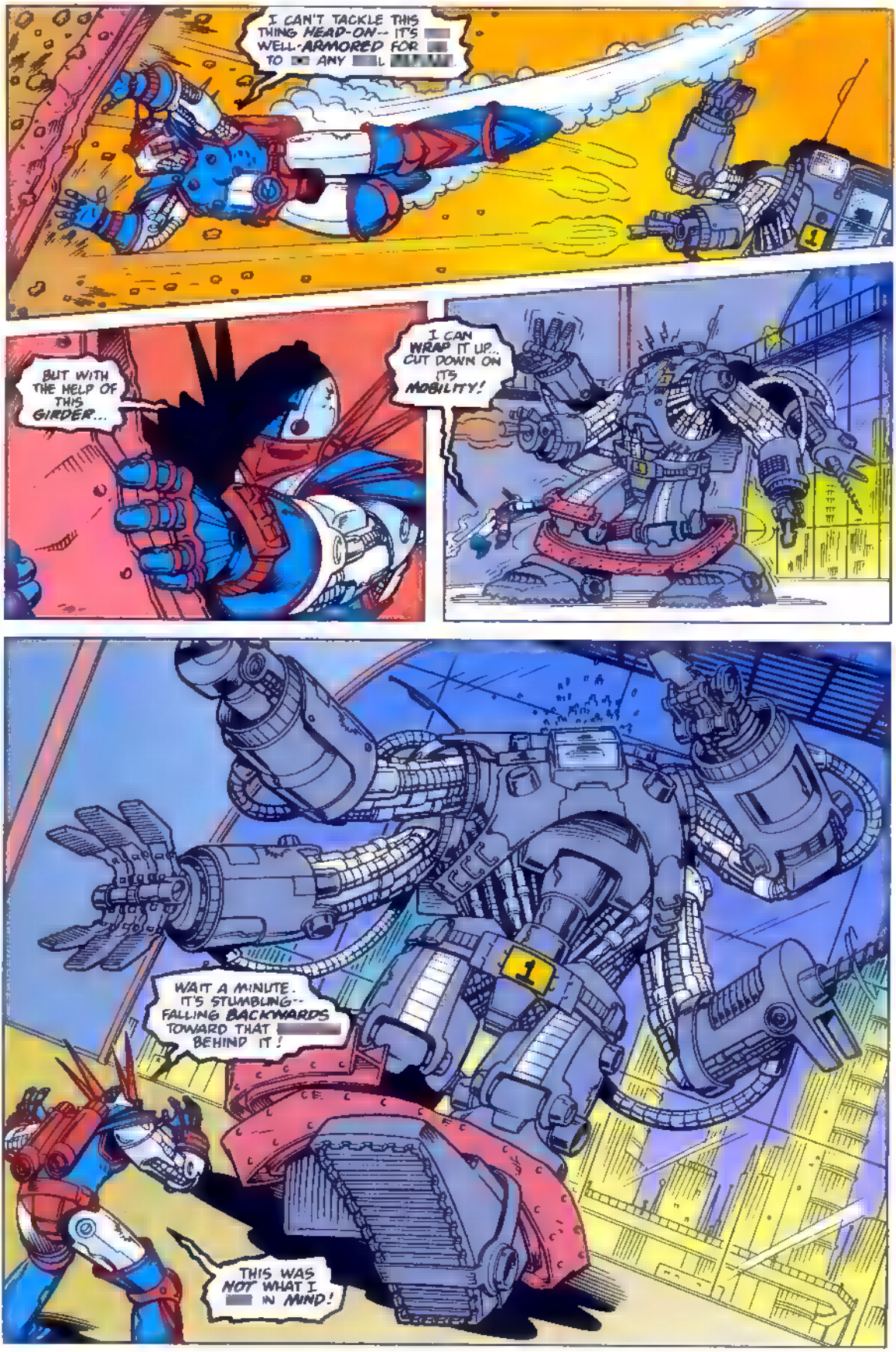

I'M SUZANNE CARTER. WAS JUST HIRED BY STARK-FUJIKAWA. I CAME TO...
...TO SEE...
MY WORK?
YES... YOUR WORK. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE Y-- LIKE IT.
I'VE BEEN INTERESTED IN BODY ARMOR TECHNOLOGY FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
YOU SEE, WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG, THERE WAS A FIRE IN MY DOWNTOWN HOME -- AN ANCIENT 20th CENTURY STRUCTURE JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MATCH.
"A WATCHDOG GRUNT WHOSE NAME I NEVER LEARNED RESCUED ME FROM THAT FIRE -- THEN DIED TRYING TO SAVE OTHERS."
"PERHAPS WITH BODY ARMOR THE LIKES OF GALAHAD, THE LIVES OF OTHER WATCHDOGS AND PUBLIC EYE GRUNTS WON'T BE ENDANGERED THE WAY THEY ARE NOW."
YOU MAKE MY WORK SOUND PRETTY INSIGNIFICANT. ALL I DO IS DEVELOP HEAVY-DUTY CONSTRUCTION ROBOTS LIKE THIS ONE.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND INSIGNIFICANT AT ALL. EVERY CITY NEEDS NEW BUILDINGS.
...IF YOU CAN'T LEAVE YOUR ENCLOSURE, HOW DID YOU BUILD THE GALAHAD SUIT?
IT WAS BUILT TO MY... SPECIFICATIONS.
HEY... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I... I'VE GOT A MEETING. BUT WE CAN TALK LATER, OKAY?
SURE. LATER.
BUT... FEEL FREE TO COME BACK... ANYTIME...
...LORD KNOWS... I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE.

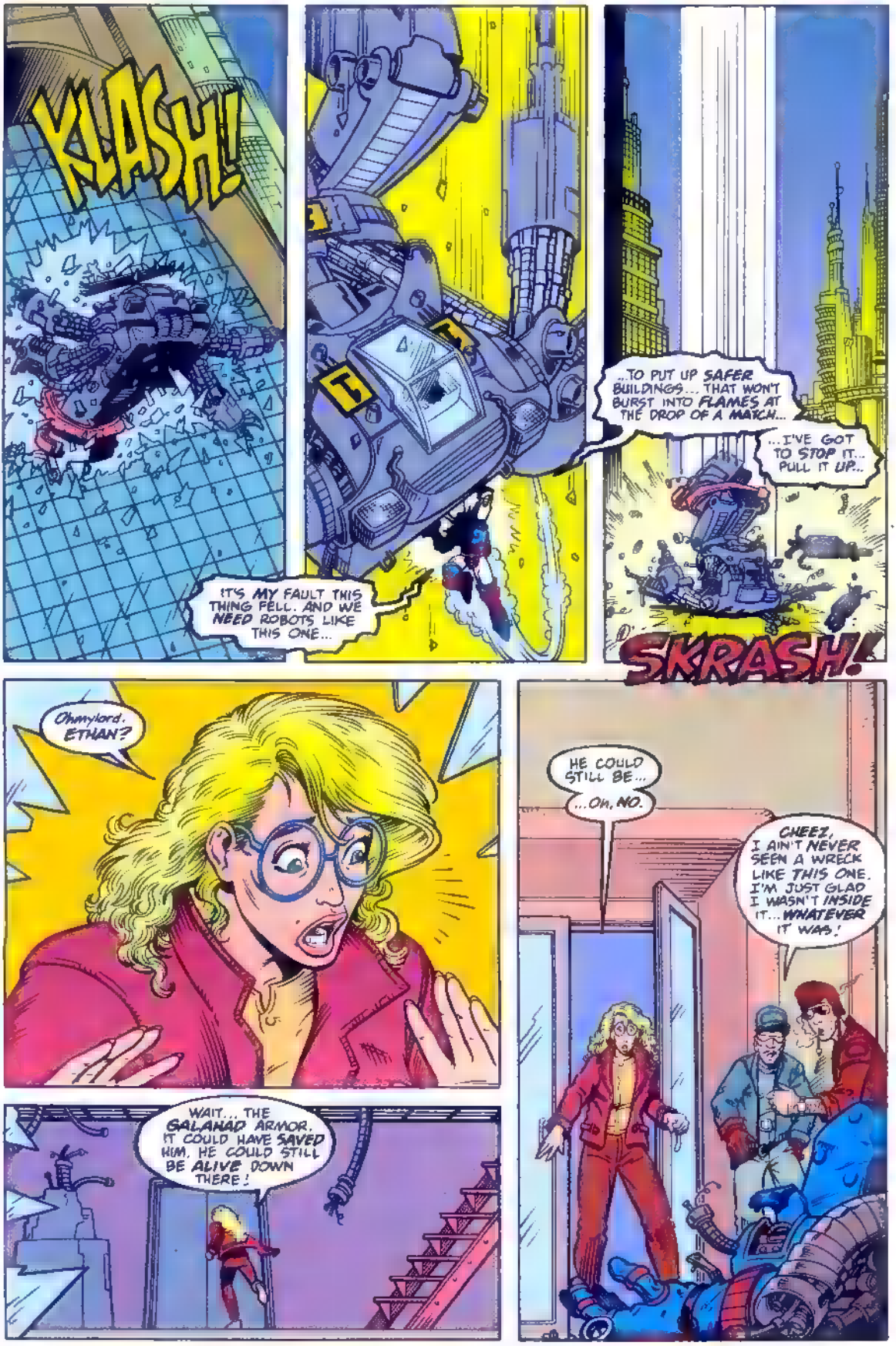

THAT NIGHT
DOCTOR SHIELDS? ETHAN? IT'S ME~ SUZANNE CARTER.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT --NO!
SZHRAAK!
IT CAN'T BE! MY CONSTRUCTION PROTOTYPE-- SOMEBODY'S INSIDE IT!!
MUST BE A SABOTEUR FROM A RIVAL CORP! I'VE GOT TO GET HELP BEFORE HE DESTROYS EVERYTHING!
CHZZOWW!

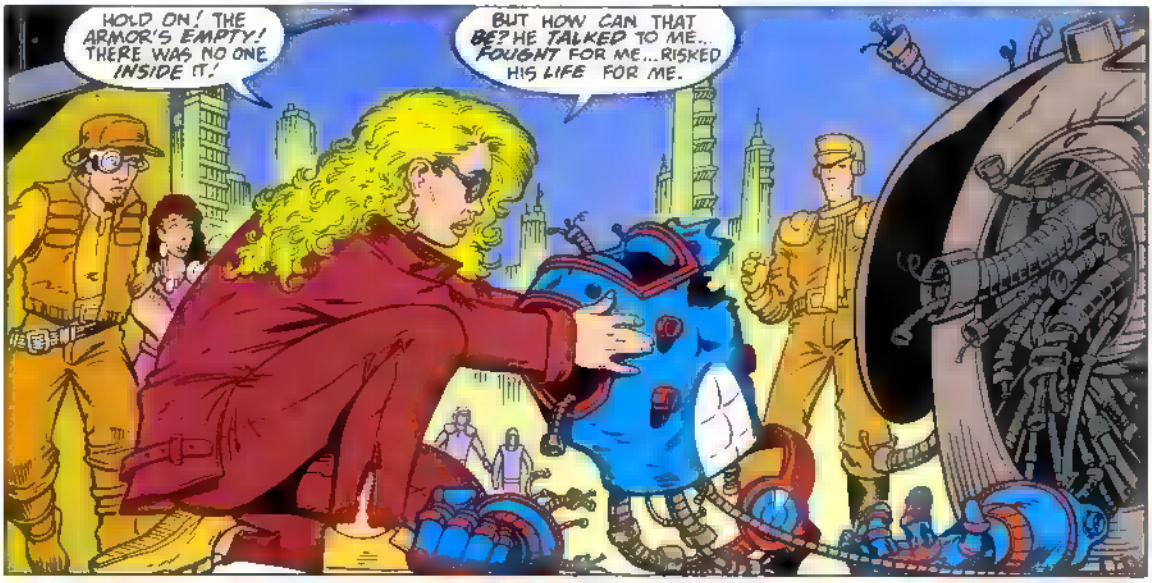

WHAT'S GOING ON?
SUZANNE? IS THAT YOU?
THAT ROBOT'S BUILT TO MOVE MOUNTAINS. IT'LL [redacted] HER UNLESS I DO SOMETHING.
PERFECT, LADY, STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE. I PROMISE TO MAKE THIS QUICK AND PAINLESS.
YOU'LL BE A CHARRED SPOT ON THE TILE!
HOLD! THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING.
IF YOU WANT HER, YOU'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH GALAHAD!
SHRAAAAZZZZ!
MICROWAVES? YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING. THIS SUIT WAS BUILT TO STAND WORSE THAN THAT.
LET'S SEE HOW BRAVE YOU ARE WHEN I DRAG YOU OUT.
MY ORDERS ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN ALIVE.
HE ELECTROCUTED HIMSELF--SO HE COULDN'T BE QUESTIONED.
YEAGGGH!
UZZT!

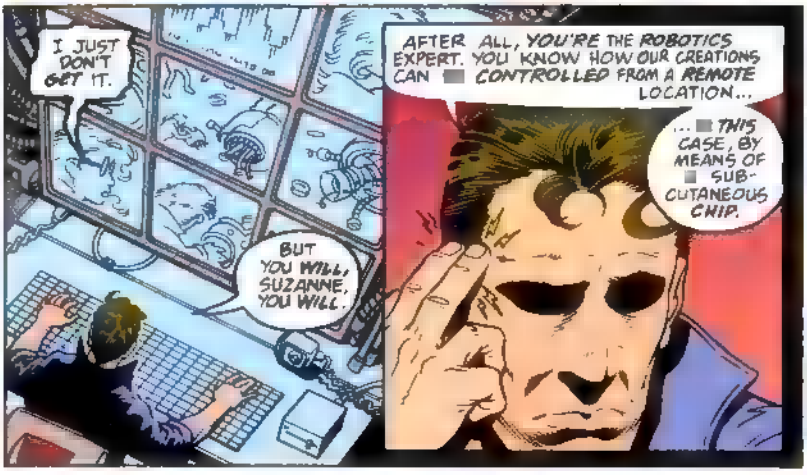

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT ELECTRICAL CHARGE ACTIVATED THE ROBOT'S HEAVY-DESTRUCT PROGRAM!
SELF DESTRUCT
IT'LL CONTINUE ITS [redacted] ON ITS OWN --AND SUZANNE'S RIGHT IN ITS PATH!
I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HER!
IT FLUNG ME ASIDE LIKE SOME KIND OF TOY!
ETHAN! WATCH OUT!
SKRUNCH!
UNNGH!
THIS ARMOR CAN TAKE WEAPONS CHARGES... E[redacted]L EXTREMES.. BUT IT'S NOT BUILT FOR [redacted] CONTINGENCY LIKE RAMPAGING ROBOTS!
STILL... GOT TO FIND A WAY TO BEAT IT... FOR SUZANNE'S SAKE!
ETHAN... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ETHAN?

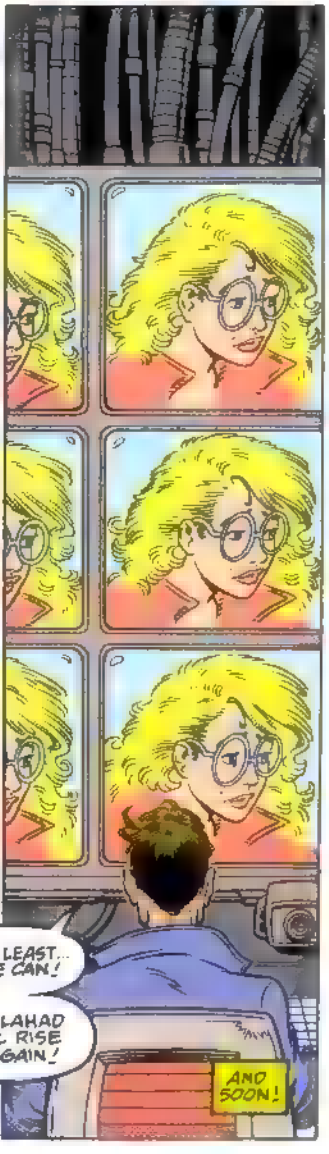

OH, NO!
I ONLY DREW IT TOWARD ME!
GOTCHA!
FWOOOSH!
YOU'RE OKAY!
IF BY "OKAY" YOU MEAN "STILL FUNCTIONAL," THEN I'M DEFINITELY THAT.
AND EVEN IF I WASN'T, I'D STILL DO BATTLE FOR YOU.
FOR ME?
OF COURSE, MY LADY.
AFTER ALL, WHAT HIGHER CODE IS THERE THAN CHIVALRY?

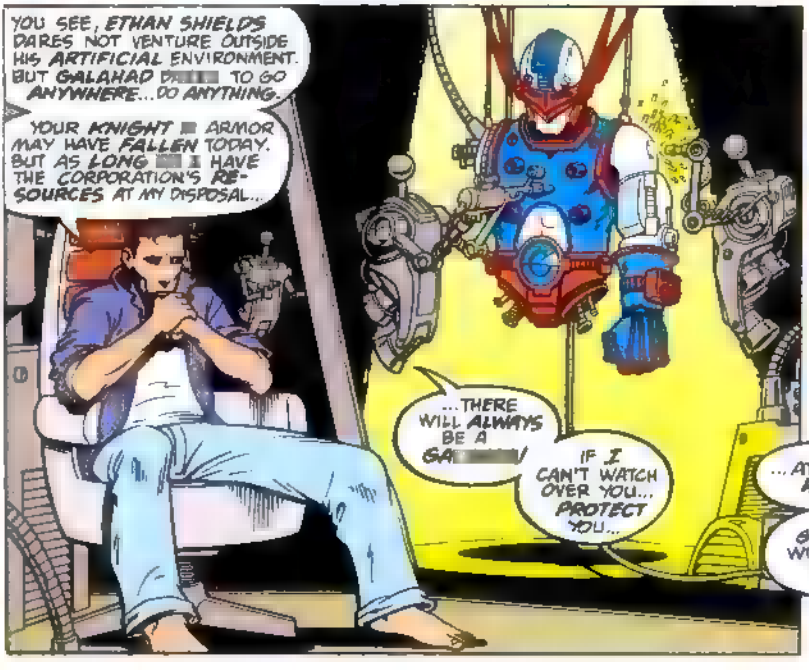

I CAN'T TACKLE THIS THING HEAD-ON-- IT'S WELL-ARMORED FOR
BUT WITH THE HELP OF THIS GIRDER...
I CAN WRAP IT UP... CUT DOWN ON ITS MOBILITY!
WAIT A MINUTE. IT'S STUMBLING-- FALLING BACKWARDS TOWARD THAT BEHIND IT!
THIS WAS NOT WHAT I IN MIND!

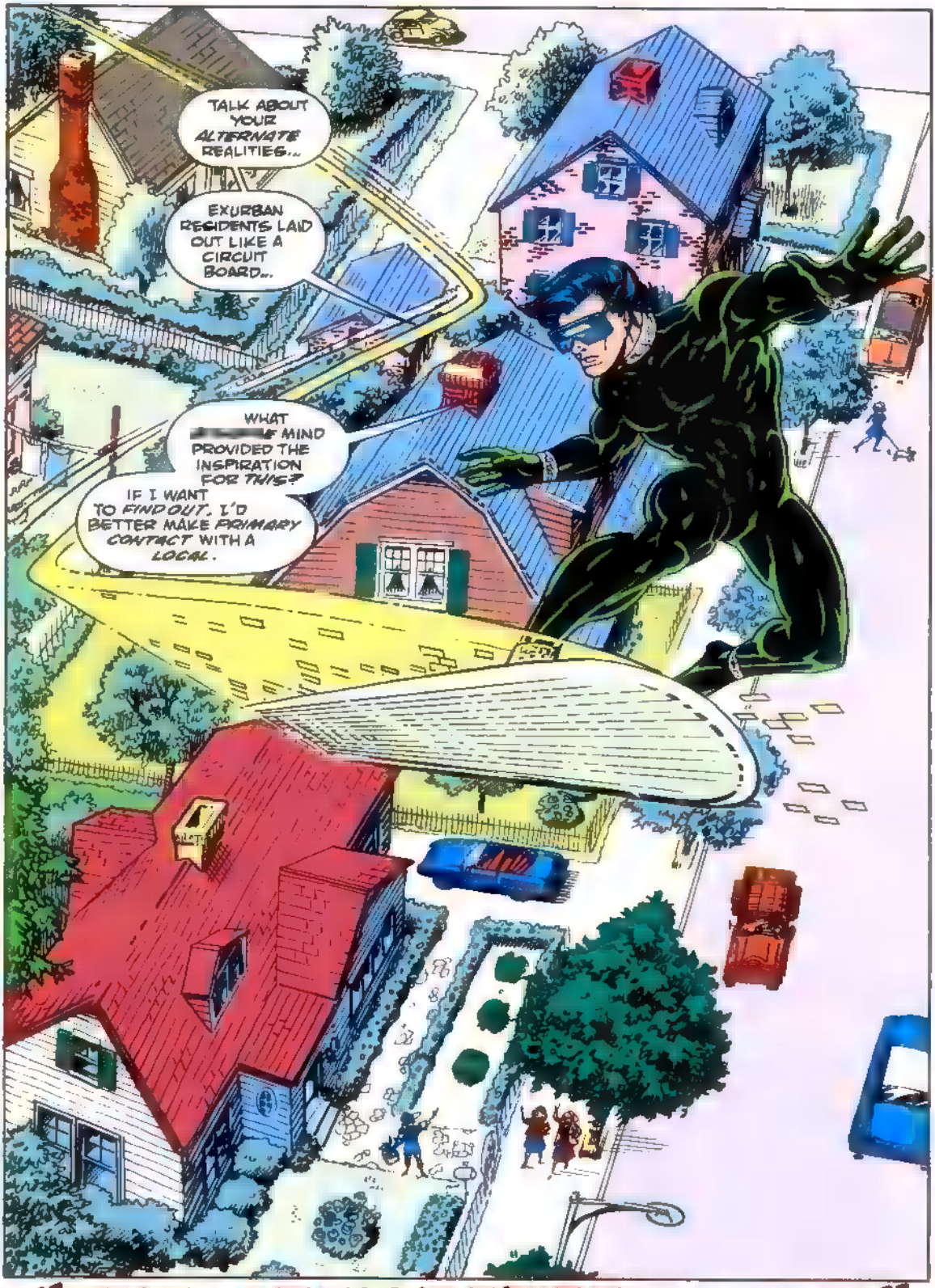

KLASH!
IT'S MY FAULT THIS THING FELL. AND WE NEED ROBOTS LIKE THIS ONE...
...TO PUT UP SAFER BUILDINGS... THAT WON'T BURST INTO FLAMES AT THE DROP OF A MATCH...
...I'VE GOT TO STOP IT... PULL IT UP...
SKRASH!
Ohmylord. ETHAN?
WAIT... THE GALAHAD ARMOR. IT COULD HAVE SAVED HIM. HE COULD STILL BE ALIVE DOWN THERE!
HE COULD STILL BE...
...OH, NO.
CHEEZ, I AIN'T NEVER SEEN A WRECK LIKE THIS ONE. I'M JUST GLAD I WASN'T INSIDE IT... WHATEVER IT WAS!


HOLD ON! THE ARMOR'S EMPTY! THERE WAS NO ONE INSIDE IT!
BUT HOW CAN THAT BE? HE TALKED TO ME.. FOUGHT FOR ME...RISKED HIS LIFE FOR ME.


I JUST DON'T GET IT.
BUT YOU WILL, SUZANNE, YOU WILL.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ROBOTICS EXPERT. YOU KNOW HOW OUR CREATIONS CAN CONTROLLED FROM A REMOTE LOCATION...
...THIS CASE, BY MEANS OF SUB-CUTANEOUS CHIP.

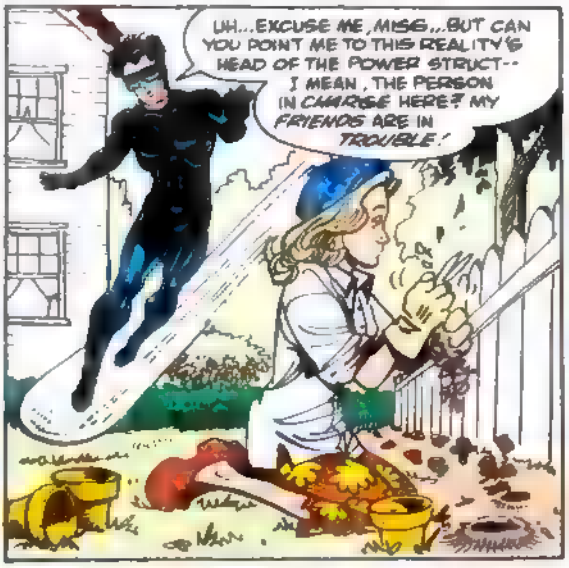

...AT LEAST... HE CAN!
GALAHAD WILL RISE AGAIN!
AND SOON!

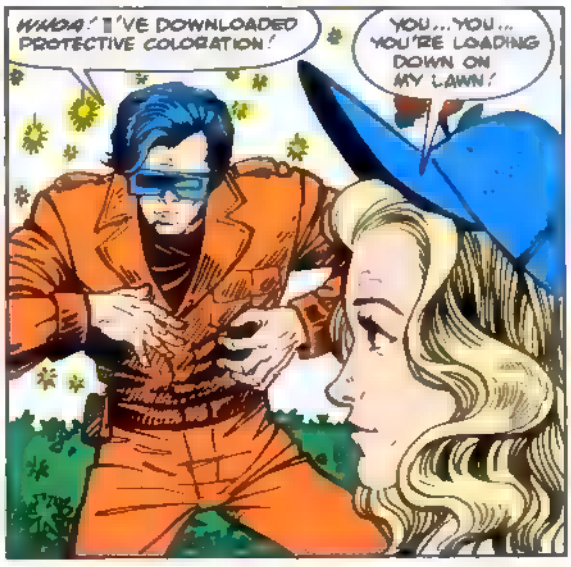

YOU SEE, ETHAN SHIELDS DARES NOT VENTURE OUTSIDE HIS ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENT. BUT GALAHAD TO GO ANYWHERE...DO ANYTHING.
YOUR KNIGHT ARMOR MAY HAVE FALLEN TODAY. BUT AS LONG I HAVE THE CORPORATION'S RESOURCES AT MY DISPOSAL...
...THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A
IF I CAN'T WATCH OVER YOU... PROTECT YOU...


TALK ABOUT YOUR *ALTERNATE* REALITIES...
EXURBAN RESIDENTS LAID OUT LIKE A CIRCUIT BOARD...
WHAT [redacted] MIND PROVIDED THE INSPIRATION FOR *THIS*?
IF I WANT TO *FIND OUT*, I'D BETTER MAKE *PRIMARY CONTACT* WITH A *LOCAL*.

"THE MOST FATEFUL TRIP"

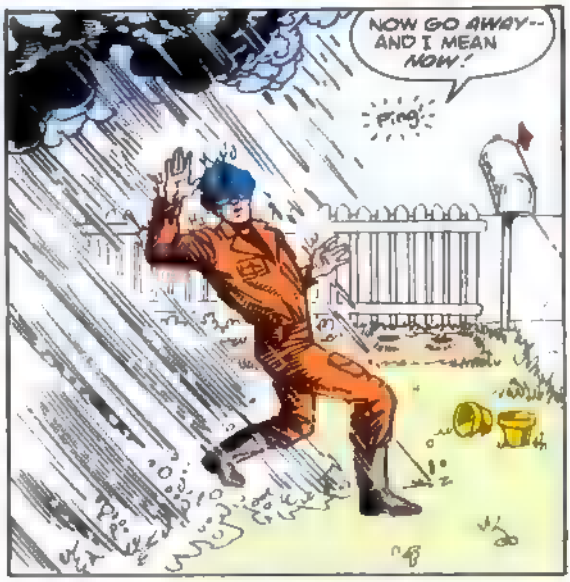
MICHAEL JAN FRIEDMAN, WRITER MARIE SEVERIN, ARTIST
ROD OLLERENSHAW, LETTERER JOEY CAVALIERI, EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO, DESPOT


UH...EXCUSE ME, MISS...BUT CAN YOU POINT ME TO THIS REALITY'S HEAD OF THE POWER STRUCT-- I MEAN, THE PERSON IN CHARGE HERE? MY FRIENDS ARE IN TROUBLE!

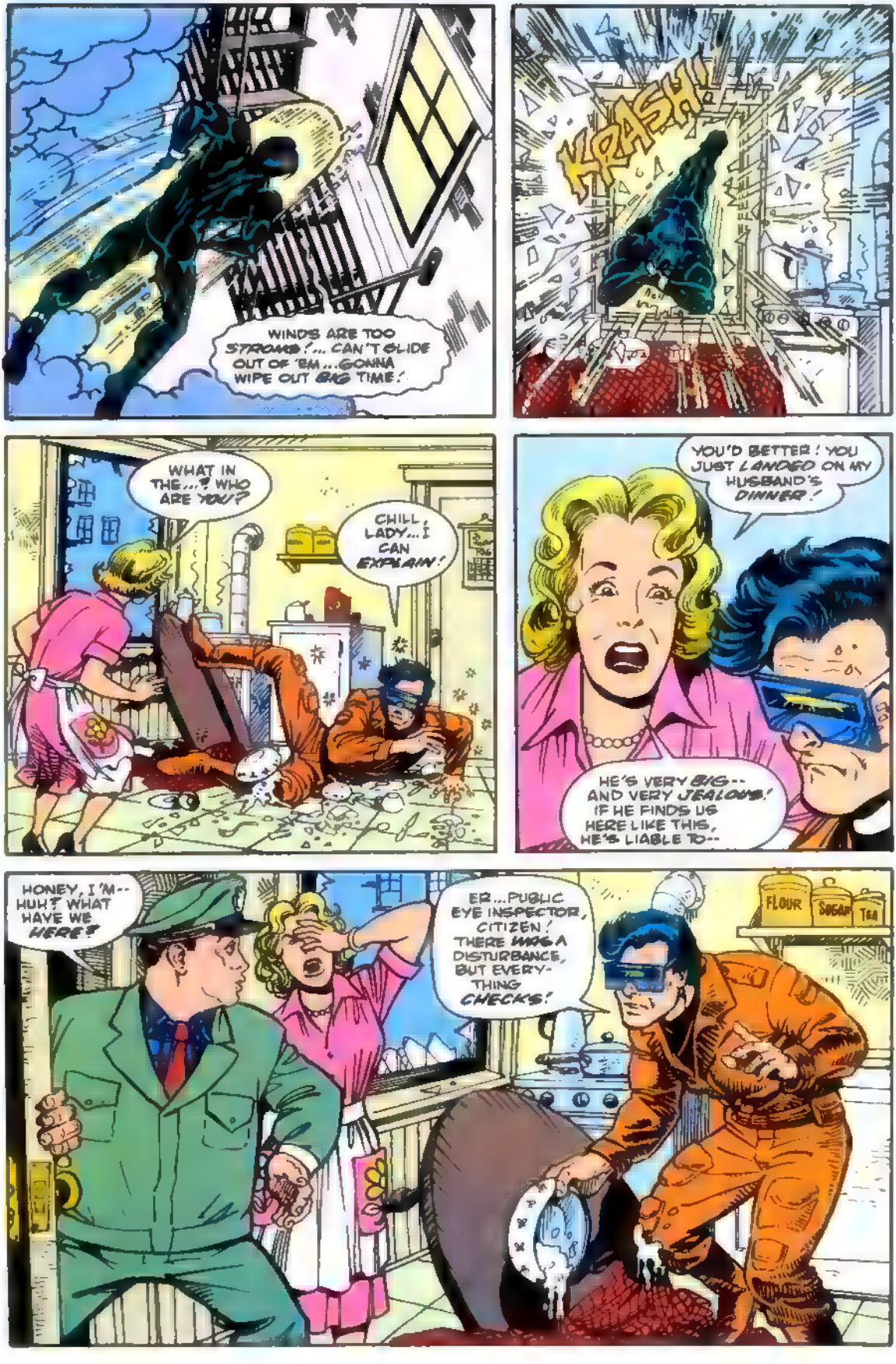

WHOA! I'VE DOWNLOADED PROTECTIVE COLORATION!
YOU...YOU... YOU'RE LOADING DOWN ON MY LAWN!

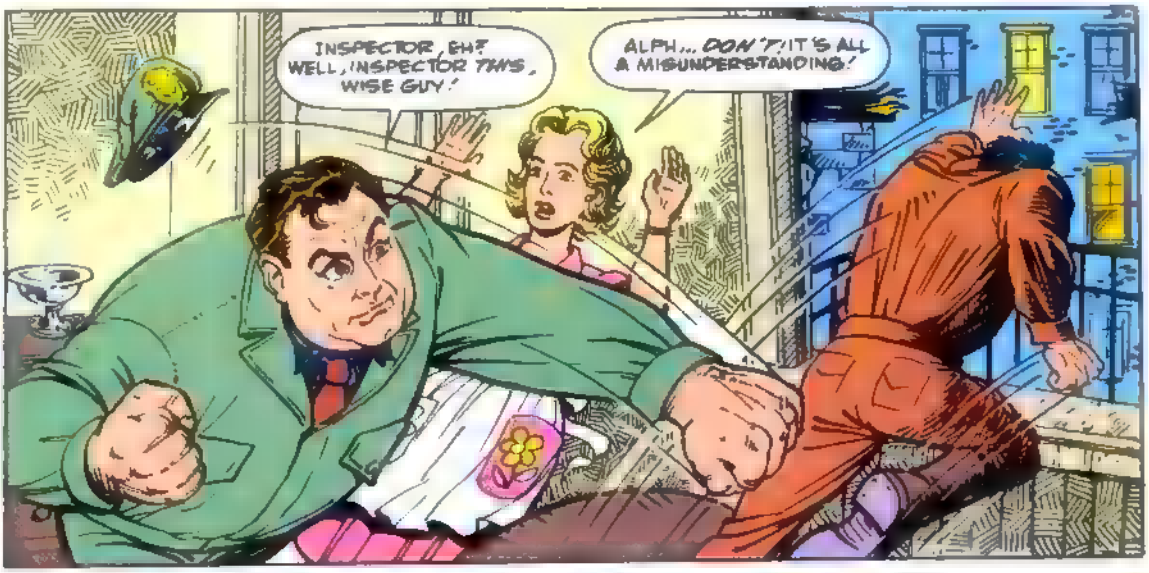
BELIEVE ME, MA'AM, I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE. I JUST NEED TO SEE THE GUY IN CHARGE!
THAT WOULD BE MISTER MONEY. BUT HE'S A VERY BUSY MAN, MUCH TOO BUSY TO SEE ANYONE...
US MAIL
STEVENS

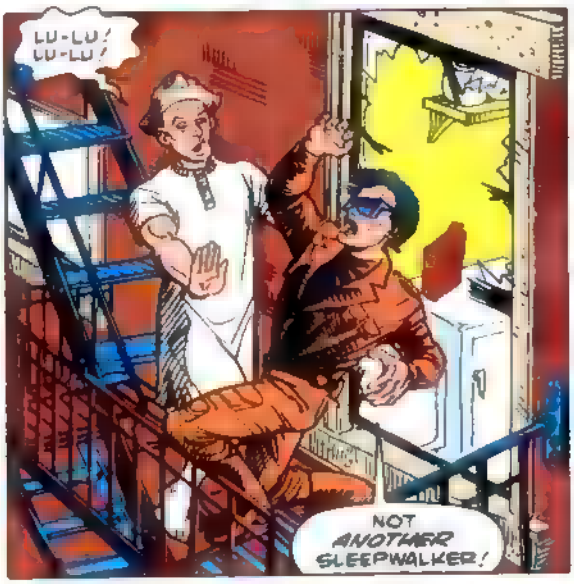
...MUCH LESS A LEATHER-JACKETED HOODLUM LIKE YOU!
TINKLE!
TINKLE!


NOW GO AWAY-- AND I MEAN NOW!
PING!

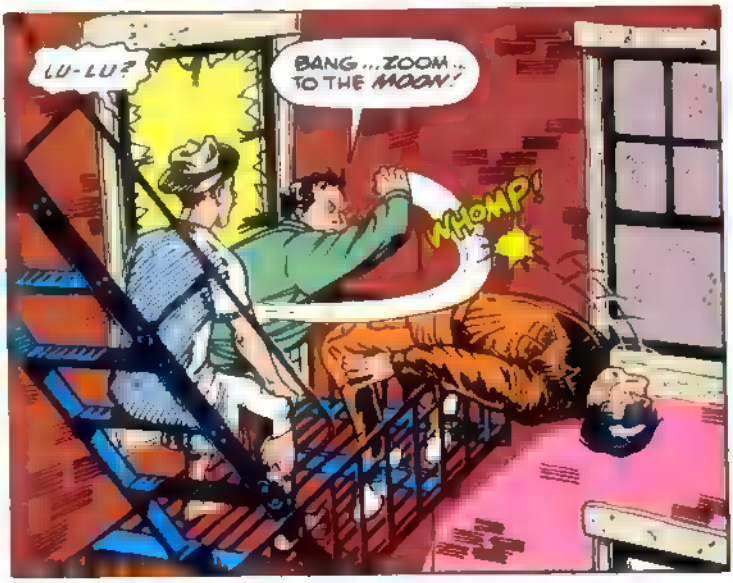
HOSTILE RECEPTION FROM THE NATIVES ACKNOWLEDGED!

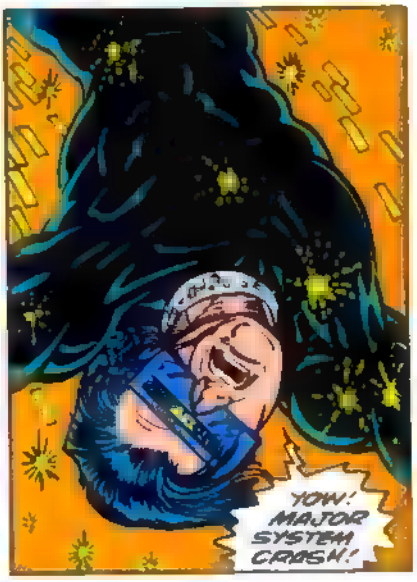

WINDS ARE TOO STRONG!... CAN'T GLIDE OUT OF 'EM...GONNA WIPE OUT BIG TIME!
KRASH
WHAT IN THE...? WHO ARE YOU?
CHILL, LADY...I CAN EXPLAIN!
YOU'D BETTER! YOU JUST LANDED ON MY HUSBAND'S DINNER!
HE'S VERY BIG-- AND VERY JEALOUS! IF HE FINDS US HERE LIKE THIS, HE'S LIABLE TO--
HONEY, I'M-- HUH? WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
ER...PUBLIC EYE INSPECTOR, CITIZEN! THERE WAS A DISTURBANCE, BUT EVERYTHING CHECKS!
FLOUR
SUGAR
TEA


INSPECTOR, EH? WELL, INSPECTOR THIS, WISE GUY!
ALPH... DON'T! IT'S ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING!

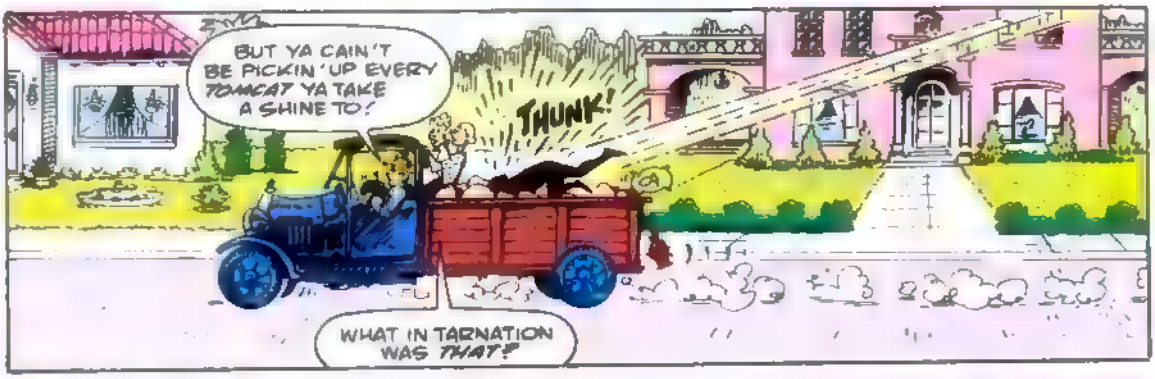

LU-LU! LU-LU!
NOT ANOTHER SLEEPWALKER!

LU-LU!
THOUGHT YOU'D [redacted] AWAY WITH IT, DIDJA? WELL, I'LL TEACH [redacted] TO MESS AROUND WITH MY WIFE!
UH, OH!


LU-LU?
BANG... ZOOM... TO THE MOON!
WHOMP!

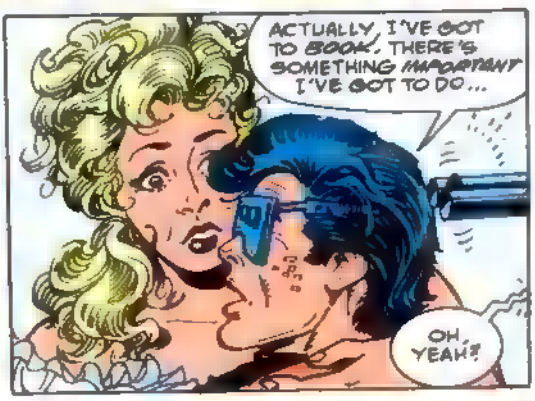

YOW! MAJOR SYSTEM CRASH!

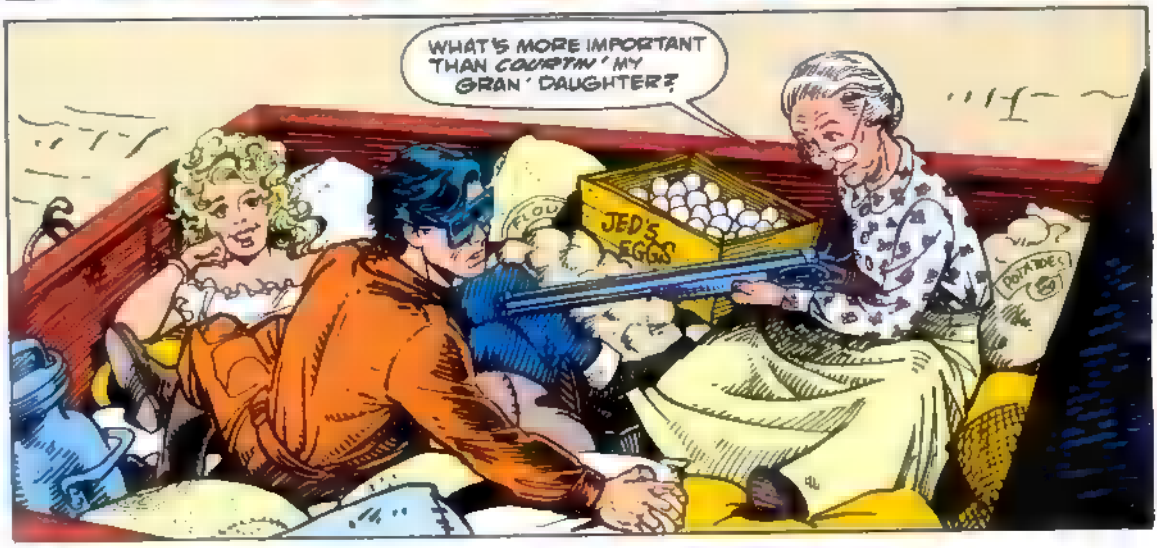
IF I GET MYSELF FIXED IN THIS REALITY...
I'LL FLAT-LINE FOR REAL!
GOTTA GET IT TOGETHER...
...SLOW MY DESCENT...
... AND ACCELERATE!!
STILL NO CLOSER TO THIS REALITY'S C.E.O. ...
MAYBE I'LL GET AN ANSWER FROM THOSE TECHNO-PEAGANTS
THINK [illegible] SHOULD [illegible] STRETCH LIMOUSINES, PA [illegible] THEY SURE LOOK PURTY!
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE, JELLIE MAE. I KNOW YA WANT MORE SPACE FER YER CRITTERS...
CBS 62


BUT YA CAIN'T BE PICKIN' UP EVERY TOMCAT YA TAKE A SHINE TO!
THUNK!
WHAT IN TARNATION WAS THAT?

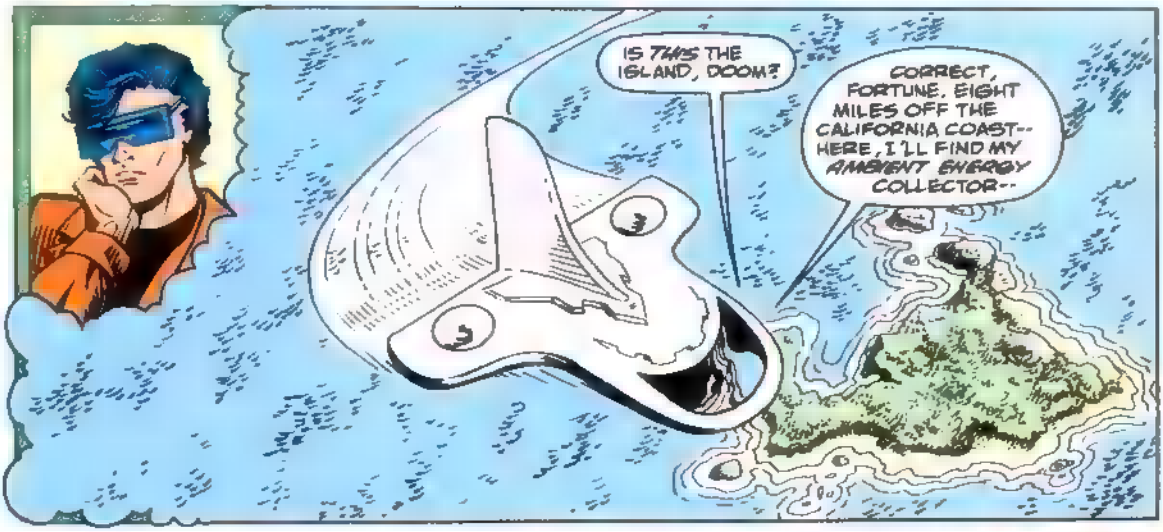
IT'S A MAN, GRAMMY! AND HE MUST BE SOMETHIN' SPECIAL 'COS HE'S A-SPARKIN' LIKE CRAZY!
SPEAKIN' OF SPARKIN'... HE'S PURTY CUTE, AIN'T HE?
POTATOES
FLOUR

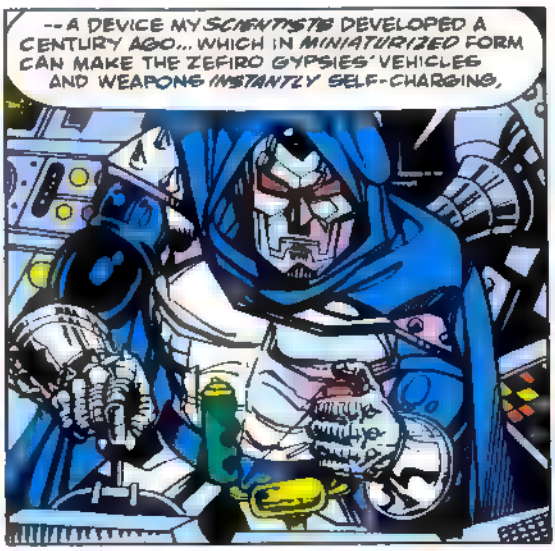
CAN I KEEP HIM, GRAMMY? CAN I?

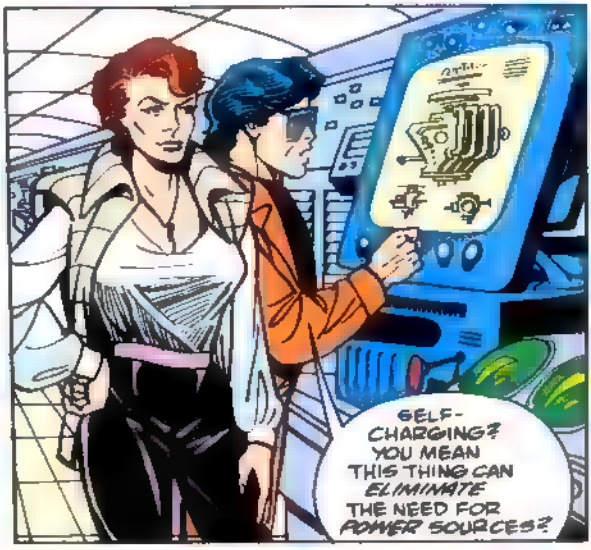

ACTUALLY, I'VE GOT TO BOOK. THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT I'VE GOT TO DO...
OH, YEAH?

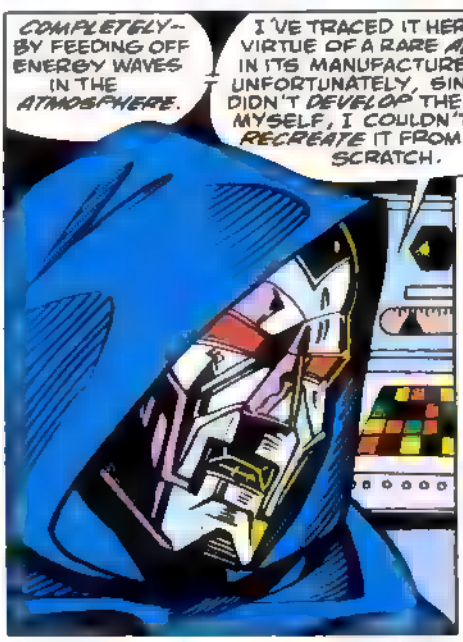

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN COURTIN' MY GRAN' DAUGHTER?
JED'S EGGS
POTATOES

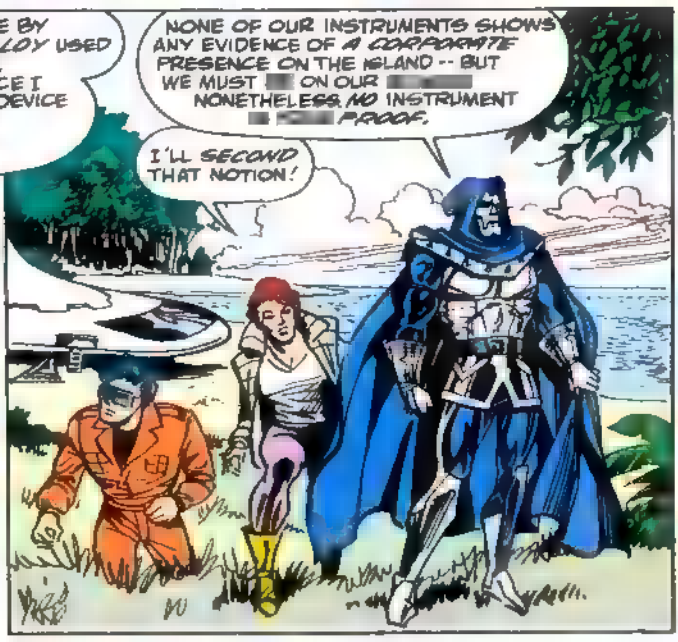
YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND*. I'VE GOT TO FIND THE MAN IN *CHARGE* HERE, MY FRIENDS --
I WOULDN'T RILE OL' *GRANNY*, YOUNG FELLER. SHE FELL IN THE CEE-MENT POND THIS MORNING AND SHE'S ORN'RIER THAN A HOUND DOG AT A FLEA CIRCUS.
BUT I'M NOT [redacted] HERE! I'M FROM A PLACE *OUTSIDE* THIS REALITY!
GOOD BUDDY, YOU HEAR THAT GUY IN THE *TRUCK*? AND YOUR DAD SAYS *I'M* WEIRD!
DON'T *WORRY*, YOUNG FELLER! AIN'T NUTHIN' WRONG WITH YA THAT A MESS O' *HOG JOWLS* WON'T CURE!
AND THEN AFTER LUNCH, I'LL SHOW YA MY *CRITTERS*. YER GONNA *LIKE* MY CRITTERS!
HOUSEWIVES WITH TWITCHING NOSES? JEALOUS BUS DRIVERS? [redacted] *JOWLS*?
HOW DID I GET MYSELF INTO THIS?

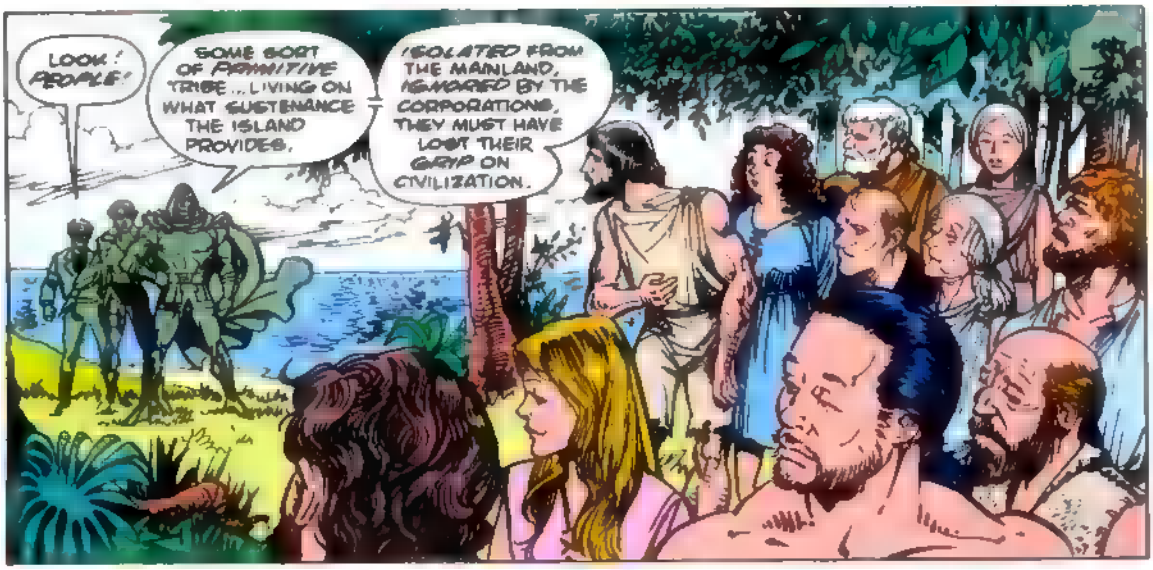

IS THIS THE ISLAND, DOOM?
CORRECT, FORTUNE. EIGHT MILES OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST-- HERE, I'LL FIND MY AMBIENT ENERGY COLLECTOR--

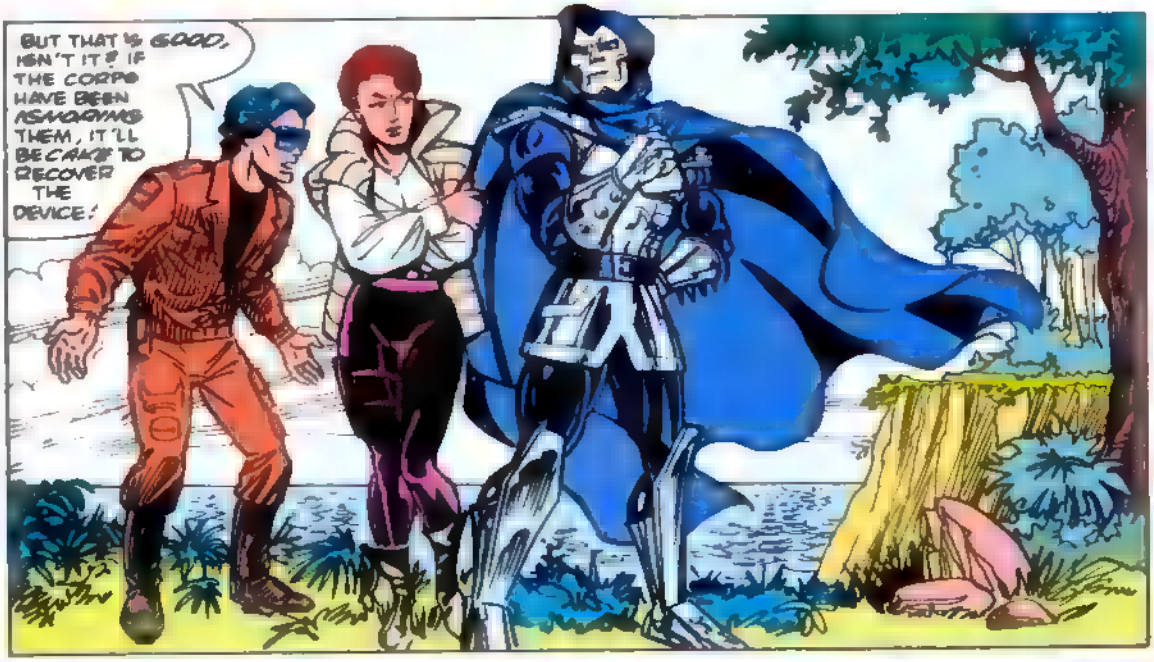

--A DEVICE MY SCIENTISTS DEVELOPED A CENTURY AGO... WHICH IN MINIATURIZED FORM CAN MAKE THE ZEFIRO GYPSIES' VEHICLES AND WEAPONS INSTANTLY SELF-CHARGING,


SELF-CHARGING? YOU MEAN THIS THING CAN ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR POWER SOURCES?


COMPLETELY-- BY FEEDING OFF ENERGY WAVES IN THE ATMOSPHERE.
I'VE TRACED IT HERE BY VIRTUE OF A RARE ALLOY USED IN ITS MANUFACTURE. UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE I DIDN'T DEVELOP THE DEVICE MYSELF, I COULDN'T RECREATE IT FROM SCRATCH.

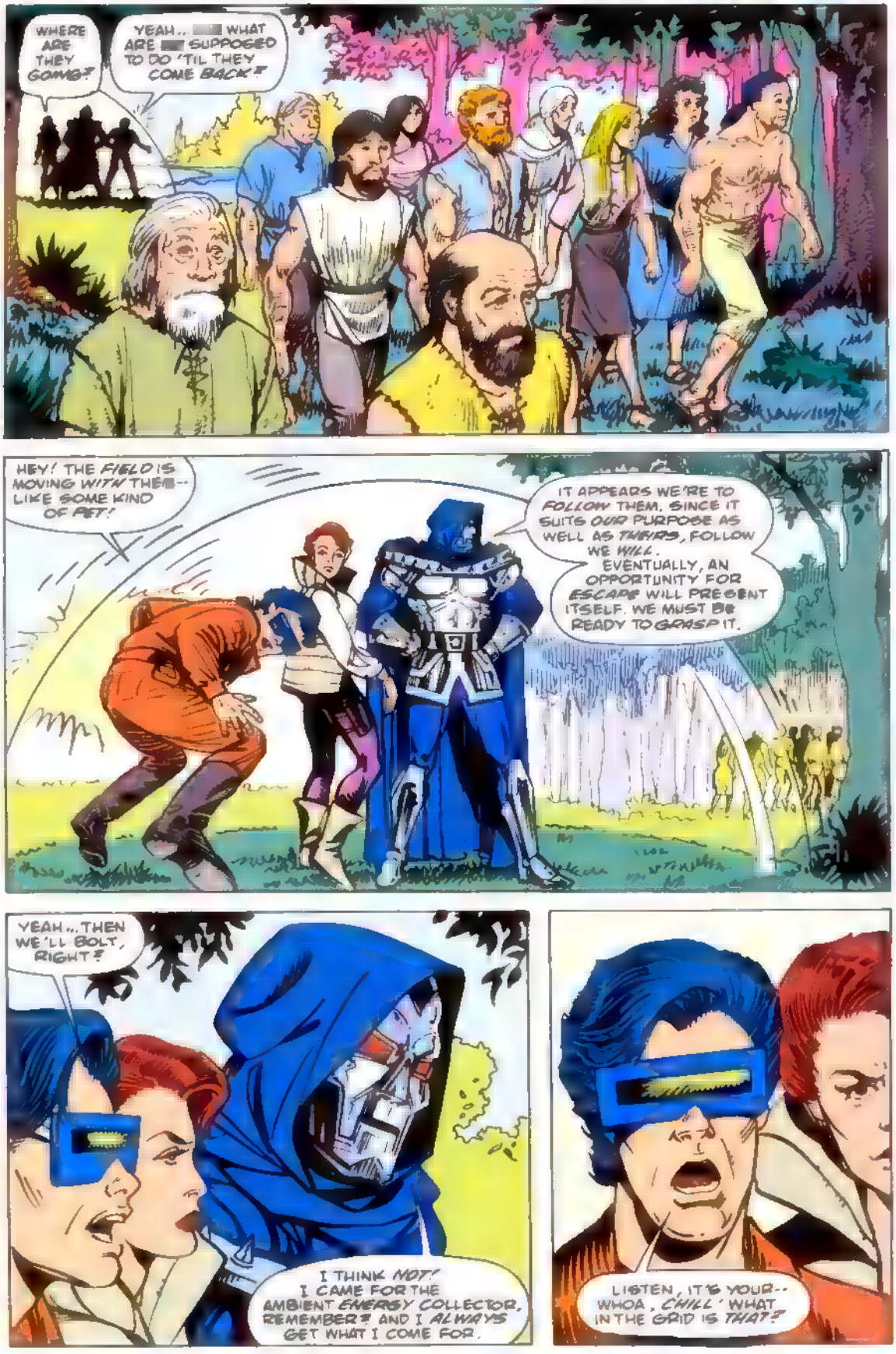

NONE OF OUR INSTRUMENTS SHOWS ANY EVIDENCE OF A CORPOREAL PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND -- BUT WE MUST [redacted] ON OUR [redacted] NONETHELESS, NO INSTRUMENT [redacted] PROOF.
I'LL SECOND THAT NOTION!

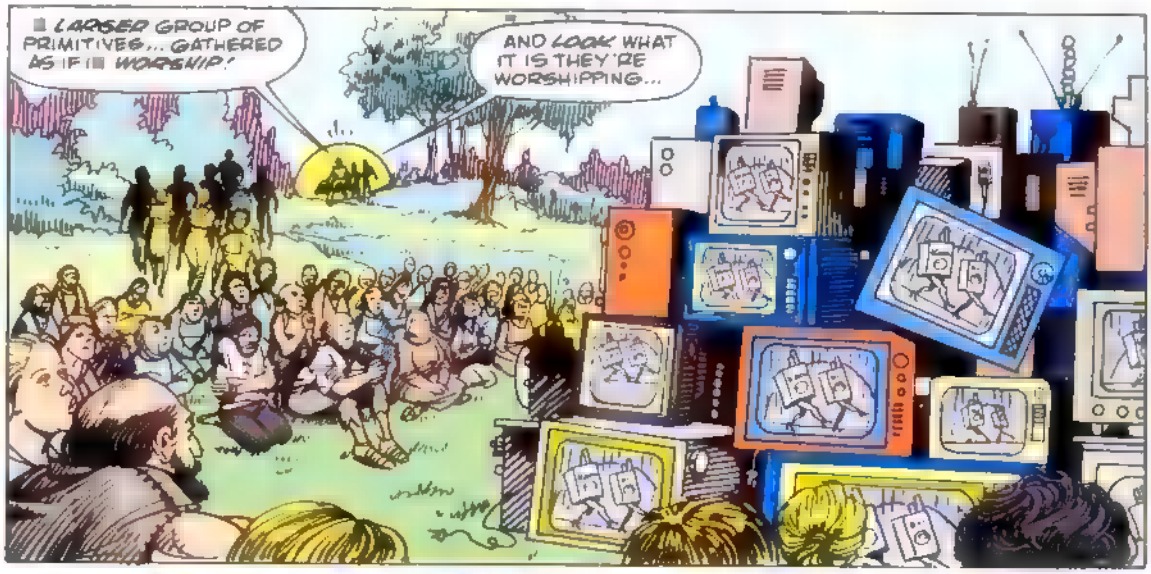

LOOK! PEOPLE!
SOME SORT OF PRIMITIVE TRIBE... LIVING ON WHAT SUSTENANCE THE ISLAND PROVIDES.
ISOLATED FROM THE MAINLAND, IGNORED BY THE CORPORATIONS. THEY MUST HAVE LOST THEIR GRIP ON CIVILIZATION.

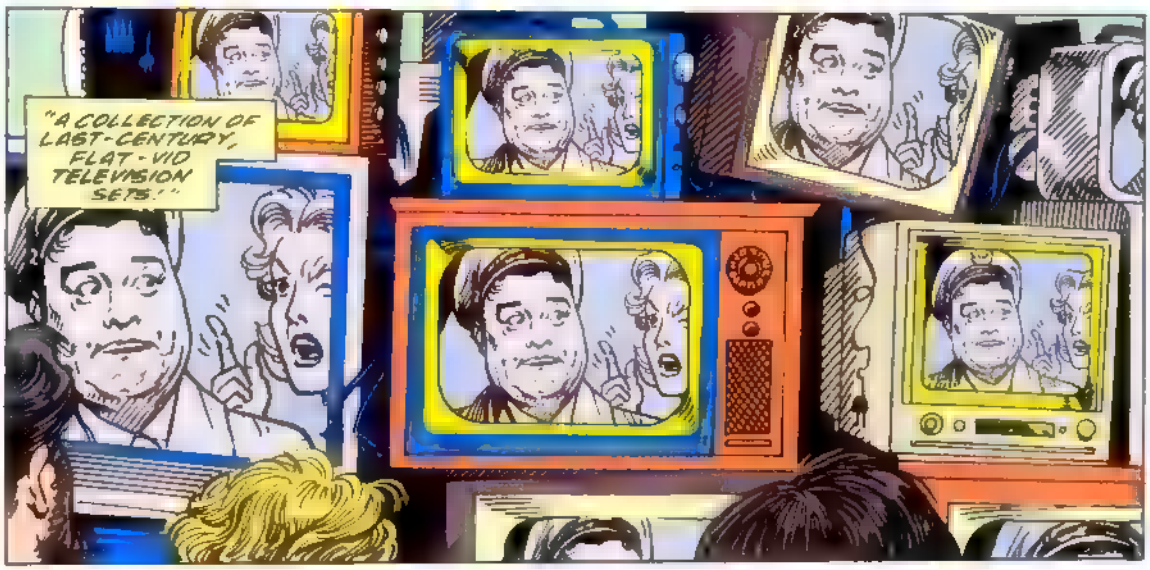

BUT THAT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT? IF THE CORPS HAVE BEEN ASSAGAIED THEM, IT'LL BE EASIER TO RECOVER THE DEVICE!

NOT NECESSARILY, WIRE. THIS MIGHT NOT BE AS EASY AS IT LOOKS. THERE'S MORE TO THESE PEOPLE THAN MEETS THE EYE -- THOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT MIGHT BE.

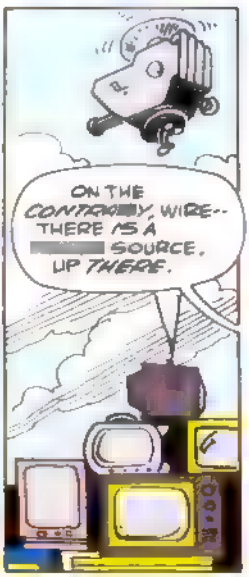
UNNGGH!
A FORCE FIELD, HOW INTRIGUING.
AS I SAID, DOOM... MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE.
STAND BACK, LET'S SEE WHICH IS THE STRONGER--THIS FIELD OR MY ARMOR'S ENERGY!
SWIZZT
THE FIELD WINS!
AND IF I TURN UP THE BLAST [illegible] FULL STRENGTH?
SKZIZZTT!
HMM... STILL NO SIGN OF IT YIELDING! OBVIOUSLY, THERE'S [illegible] TECHNOLOGICAL PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND AFTER ALL...
I [illegible] THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE HERE--[illegible]UT NOT [illegible]F HIGH-TECH ORIGIN.
IT COMES FROM... [illegible] DUNNO, FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.
THE QUESTION IS...FROM WHENCE? [illegible]ND [illegible]E IMPORTANTLY... WHY?


WHERE ARE THEY GOING?
YEAH... [redacted] WHAT ARE [redacted] SUPPOSED TO DO 'TIL THEY COME BACK?
HEY! THE FIELD IS MOVING WITH THEM-- LIKE SOME KIND OF PET!
IT APPEARS WE'RE TO FOLLOW THEM. SINCE IT SUITS OUR PURPOSE AS WELL AS THEIRS, FOLLOW WE WILL. EVENTUALLY, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ESCAPE WILL PRESENT ITSELF. WE MUST BE READY TO GRASP IT.
YEAH... THEN WE'LL BOLT, RIGHT?
I THINK NOT! I CAME FOR THE AMBIENT ENERGY COLLECTOR, REMEMBER? AND I ALWAYS GET WHAT I COME FOR.
LISTEN, IT'S YOUR-- WHOA, CHILL! WHAT IN THE GRID IS THAT?


LARGER GROUP OF PRIMITIVES... GATHERED AS IF IN WORSHIP!
AND LOOK WHAT IT IS THEY'RE WORSHIPPING...


"A COLLECTION OF LAST-CENTURY, FLAT-VIO TELEVISION SETS."

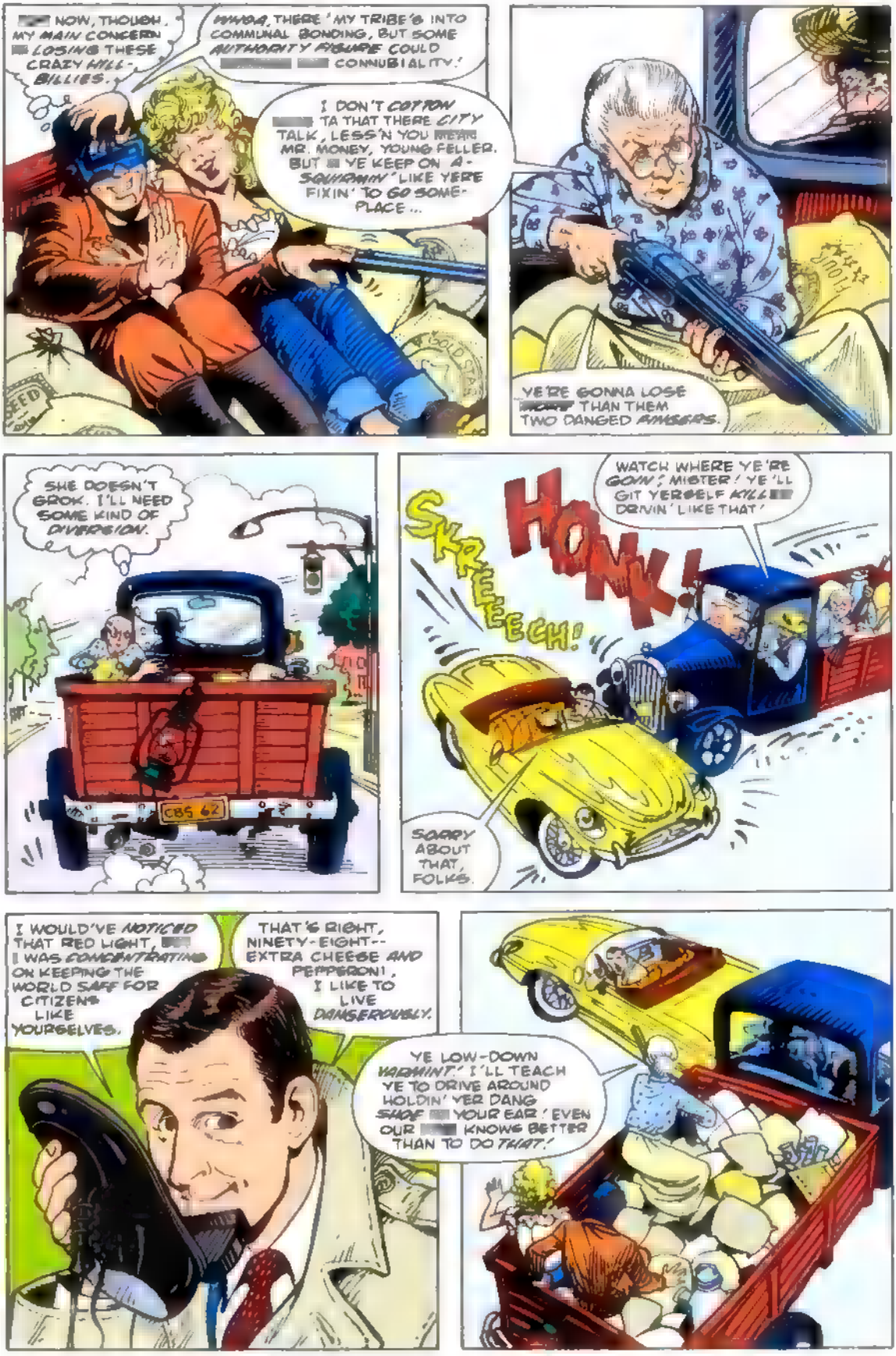
THEY'RE UP AND RUNNING... EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE PLUGGED INTO ANY POWER SOURCE!

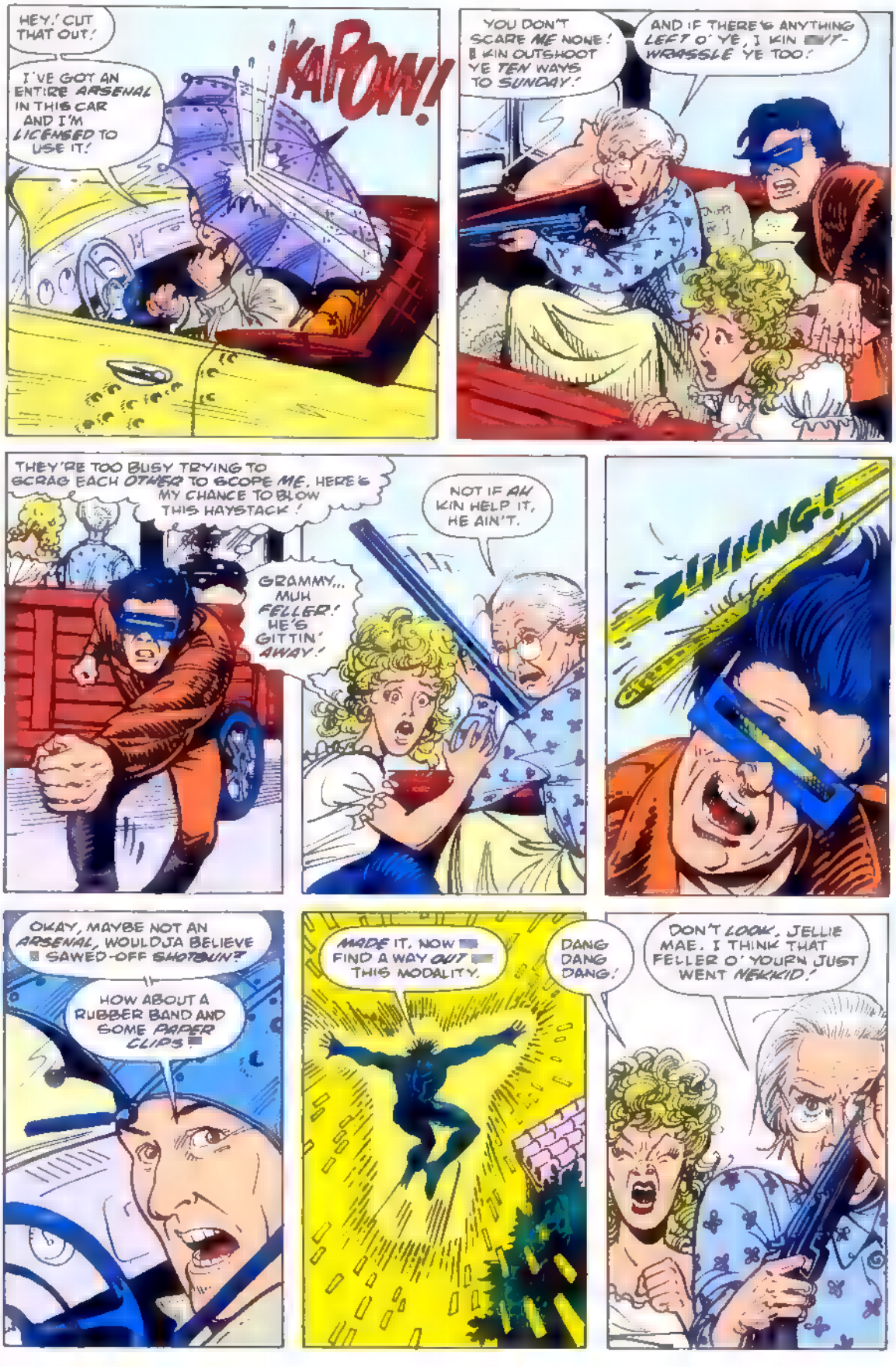

ON THE CONTROL, WIRE-- THERE IS A SOURCE. UP THERE.

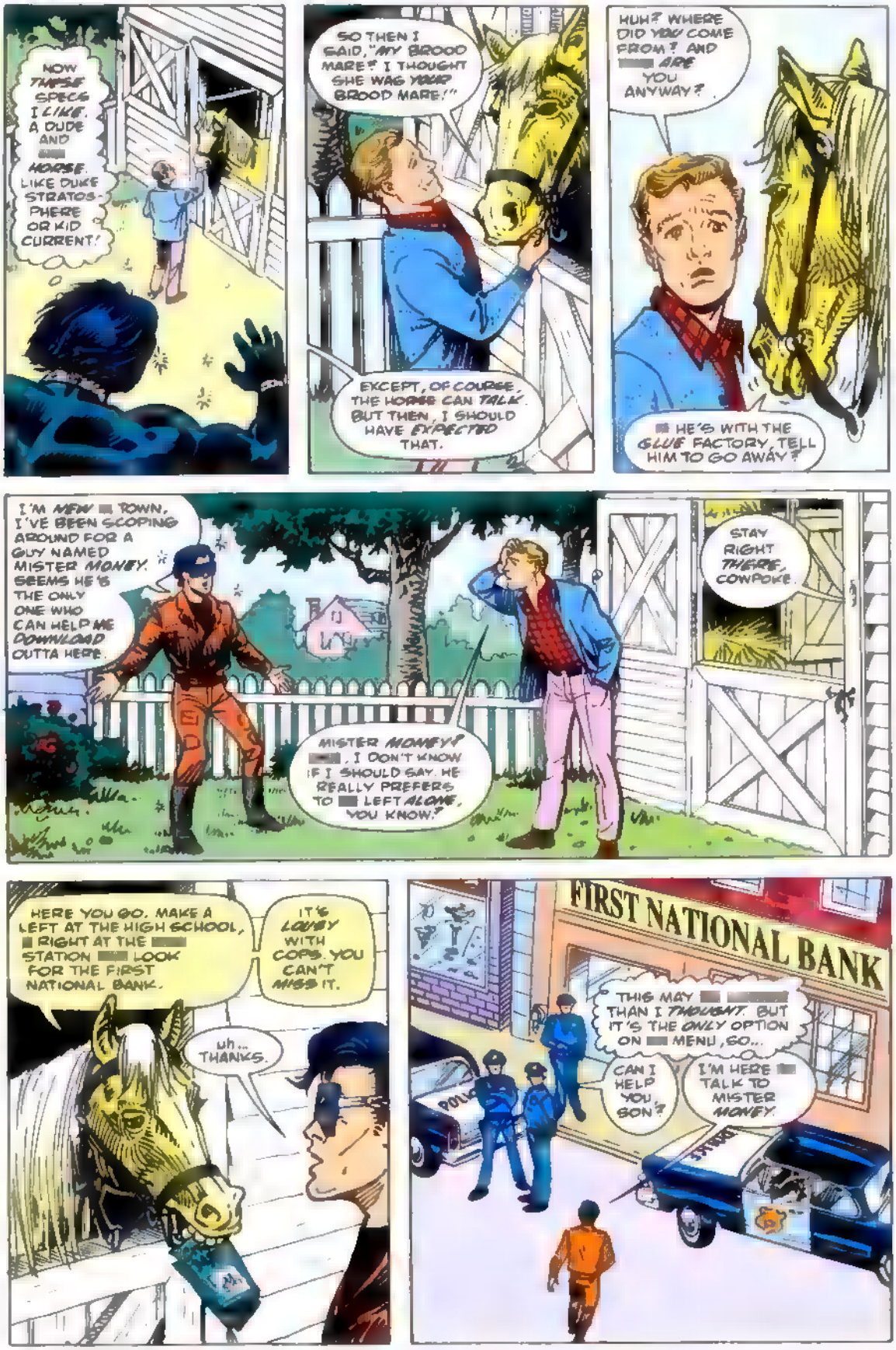
IT'S THE AMBIENT ENERGY COLLECTOR.

APPARENTLY, IT'S BEING USED TO DRAW ENERGY FROM SOMEWHERE.
IF THAT'S SO, THE COLLECTOR COULD BE PROVIDING ENERGY NOT JUST FOR THE TELEVISIONS, BUT FOR THE FORCE FIELD AS WELL.

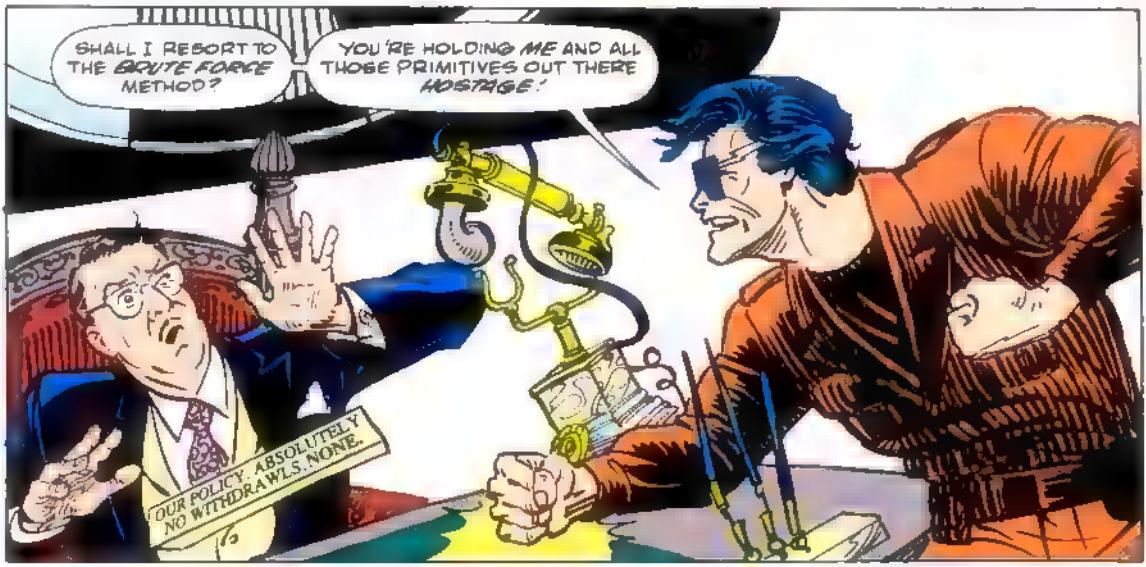
"I DON'T GET IT. I'VE NEVER SCOPED VIDS LIKE THESE [redacted].
"WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE SO FASCINATED?"
THE FORCE FIELD... IT'S BEGINNING TO DISSIPATE.
BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS TAKING [redacted] PLACE... A FORM [redacted] LETHARGY...
WE'RE FALLING ASLEEP ON OUR FEET! FIGHT IT!
SUCH POWER... LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS...
THE BROADCAST BYPASSES THE OPTIC NERVE AND HEADS RIGHT TO THE NERVOUS SYSTEM!
MAYBE IF I JACK INTO THE AMBIENT BROADCAST BAND'S NEUROLINE IN MY OWN MIND-- I CAN SURF IT!
THAT'S WHEN I FOUND MYSELF IN THIS REALITY--THE [redacted] DISPLAYED ON ALL [redacted] PRIMITIVES' [redacted] SCREENS.
SUDDENLY FREE, IF JUST HERE AND NOWHERE ELSE, I REALIZED THAT ONLY I COULD SAVE US [redacted] THESE COUCH POTATOES.
BUT FIRST, I HAD TO FIND AN ESCAPE ROUTE WHICH WOULD LET ME REGAIN CONTROL OF MY PHYSICAL FORM.
AND THAT MEANT FINDING SOMEONE IN CHARGE... SOMEONE WHO COULD SHOW ME THE WAY OUT OF HERE.
WHICH IS WHAT LED ME TO DROP IN ON THAT FLOWER-PLANTING WITCH.

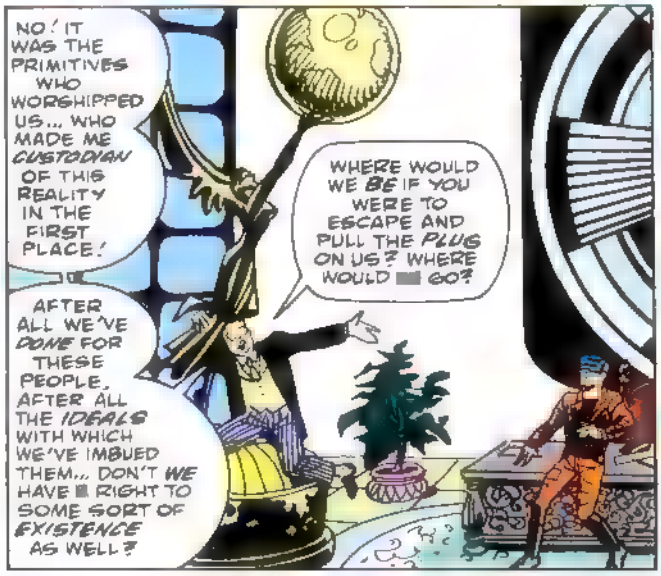

NOW, THOUGH, MY MAIN CONCERN IS LOSING THESE CRAZY HILLBILLIES.
HMPH. THERE'S MY TRIBE'S INTO COMMUNAL BONDING, BUT SOME AUTHORITY FIGURE COULD USE CONNUBIALITY.
I DON'T COTTON TA THAT THERE CITY TALK, LESS'N YOU MEAN MR. MONEY, YOUNG FELLER. BUT IF YE KEEP ON A-SQUIRMIN' LIKE YERE FIXIN' TO GO SOMEPLACE...
YE'RE GONNA LOSE MORE THAN THEM TWO DANGED AMMERS.
SHE DOESN'T GROK. I'LL NEED SOME KIND OF DIVERSION.
CBS 62
SKREEECH!
HONK!
WATCH WHERE YE'RE GOIN', MISTER! YE'LL GIT YERSELF KILLED DRIVIN' LIKE THAT!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, FOLKS.
I WOULD'VE NOTICED THAT RED LIGHT, IF I WAS CONCENTRATING ON KEEPING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CITIZENS LIKE YOURSELVES.
THAT'S RIGHT, NINETY-EIGHT-- EXTRA CHEESE AND PEPPERONI, I LIKE TO LIVE DANGEROUSLY.
YE LOW-DOWN VARMINT! I'LL TEACH YE TO DRIVE AROUND HOLDIN' YER DANG SHAVE YOUR EAR! EVEN OUR KNOWS BETTER THAN TO DO THAT!


HEY,' CUT THAT OUT!
I'VE GOT AN ENTIRE ARSENAL IN THIS CAR AND I'M LICENSED TO USE IT!
KAPOW!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME NONE! I KIN OUTSHOOT YE TEN WAYS TO SUNDAY!
AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT O' YE, I KIN WRASSLE YE TOO!
THEY'RE TOO BUSY TRYING TO SCRAG EACH OTHER TO SCOPE ME. HERE'S MY CHANCE TO BLOW THIS HAYSTACK!
GRAMMY... MUH FELLER! HE'S GITTIN' AWAY!
NOT IF AH KIN HELP IT, HE AIN'T.
ZIIIING!
OKAY, MAYBE NOT AN ARSENAL, WOULDJA BELIEVE A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN?
HOW ABOUT A RUBBER BAND AND SOME PAPER CLIPS?
MADE IT. NOW FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS MODALITY.
DANG DANG DANG!
DON'T LOOK, JELLIE MAE. I THINK THAT FELLER O' YOURN JUST WENT NEKKID!

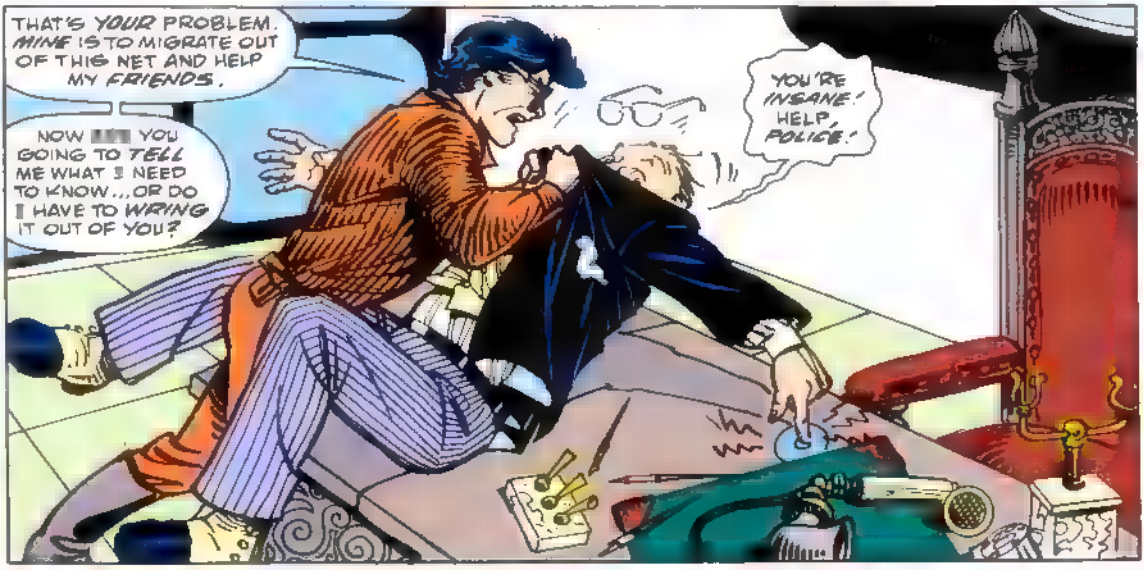

NOW THESE SPECS I LIKE. A DUDE AND [redacted] HORSE. LIKE DUKE STRATOSPHERE OR KID CURRENT.
SO THEN I SAID, "MY BROOD MARE? I THOUGHT SHE WAS YOUR BROOD MARE!"
EXCEPT, OF COURSE, THE HORSE CAN TALK. BUT THEN, I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT.
HUH? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? AND [redacted] ARE YOU ANYWAY?
[redacted] HE'S WITH THE GLUE FACTORY. TELL HIM TO GO AWAY!
I'M NEW [redacted] TOWN. I'VE BEEN SCOPING AROUND FOR A GUY NAMED MISTER MONEY. SEEMS HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ME DOWNLOAD OUTTA HERE.
STAY RIGHT THERE, COWPOKE.
MISTER MONEY? [redacted]. I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD SAY. HE REALLY PREFERS TO [redacted] LEFT ALONE, YOU KNOW?
HERE YOU GO. MAKE A LEFT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL, [redacted] RIGHT AT THE [redacted] STATION [redacted] LOOK FOR THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.
IT'S LOUSY WITH COPS. YOU CAN'T MISS IT.
UH... THANKS.
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
THIS MAY [redacted] THAN I THOUGHT. BUT IT'S THE ONLY OPTION ON [redacted] MENU, SO...
CAN I HELP YOU, SON?
I'M HERE [redacted] TALK TO MISTER MONEY.

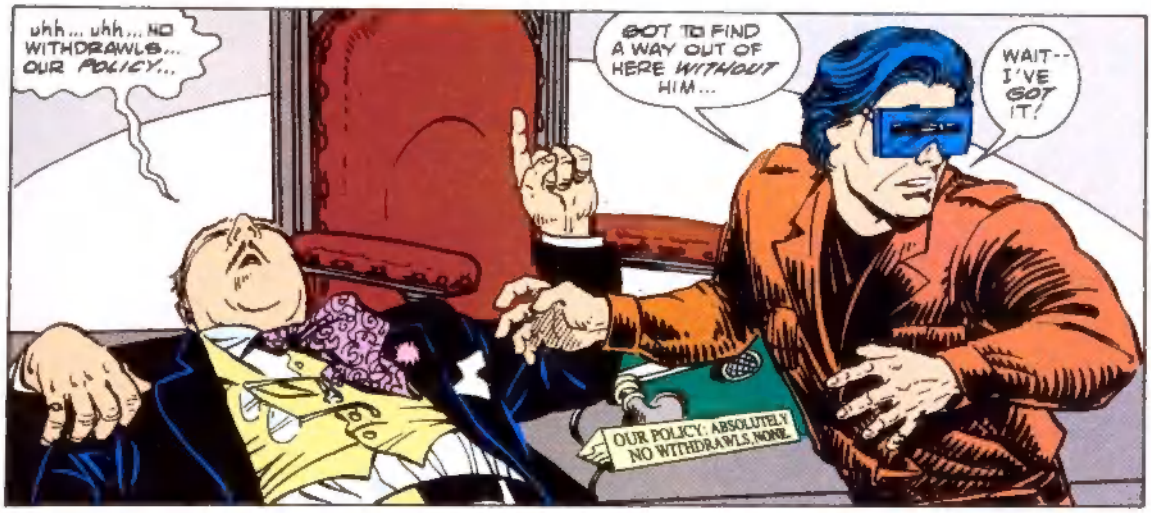
COME [redacted] IN. [redacted] WOULDN'T WANT TO KEEP MISTER MONEY WAITING, NOW WOULD WE?
ER... THERE'S [redacted] MISTER WIRE [redacted] TO [redacted] YOU, SIR.
WIRE? OH, THANK HEAVENS. FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT IT WAS THAT CRAZY REDHEAD!
BY ALL MEANS, SEND HIM IN.
MR MONEY
HELLO, YOUNG MAN. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU? [redacted] NEW ACCOUNT, PERHAPS?
WE OFFER FREE CHECKING, YOU KNOW -- PROVIDED YOU MAINTAIN [redacted] SUFFICIENT DAILY BALANCE. AND CALENDARS, AND --
NOT INTER-ESTED!
TV
I JUST WANT OUT [redacted] THIS REALITY, AND FROM WHAT I'VE SCOPED OUT, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SPRING ME.
OH, I'M VERY SORRY, SIR.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THAT WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF OUR POLICY!
OUR POLICY: ABSOLUTELY NO WITHDRAWALS, NONE

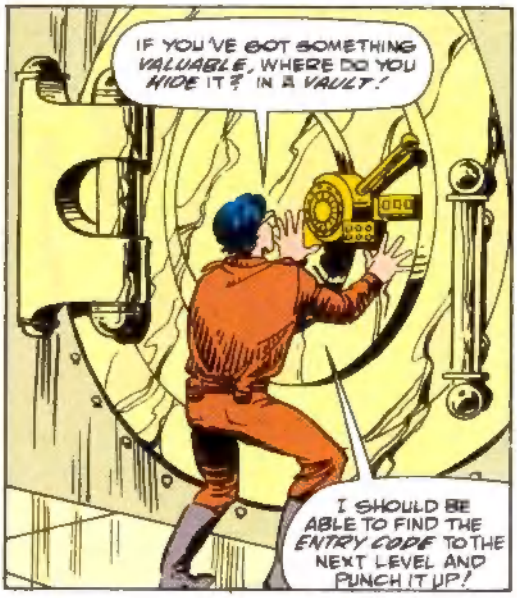

SHALL I RESORT TO THE BRUTE FORCE METHOD?
YOU'RE HOLDING ME AND ALL THOSE PRIMITIVES OUT THERE HOSTAGE!
OUR POLICY: ABSOLUTELY NO WITHDRAWLS. NONE.


NO! IT WAS THE PRIMITIVES WHO WORSHIPPED US... WHO MADE ME CUSTODIAN OF THIS REALITY IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WHERE WOULD WE BE IF YOU WERE TO ESCAPE AND PULL THE PLUG ON US? WHERE WOULD [redacted] GO?
AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE FOR THESE PEOPLE, AFTER ALL THE IDEALS WITH WHICH WE'VE IMBUED THEM... DON'T WE HAVE [redacted] RIGHT TO SOME SORT OF EXISTENCE AS WELL?

THIS [redacted] ALL WE HAVE... ALL WE ARE.


THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. MINE IS TO MIGRATE OUT OF THIS NET AND HELP MY FRIENDS.
NOW [redacted] YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW... OR DO I HAVE TO WRING IT OUT OF YOU?
YOU'RE INSANE! HELP, POLICE!

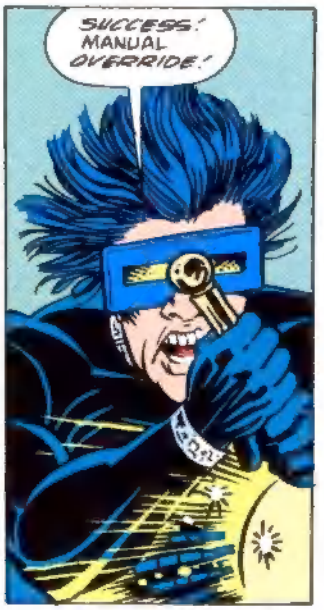

uhh... uhh... NO WITHDRAWLS... OUR POLICY...
GOT TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE WITHOUT HIM...
WAIT-- I'VE GOT IT!
OUR POLICY: ABSOLUTELY NO WITHDRAWLS. NONE.

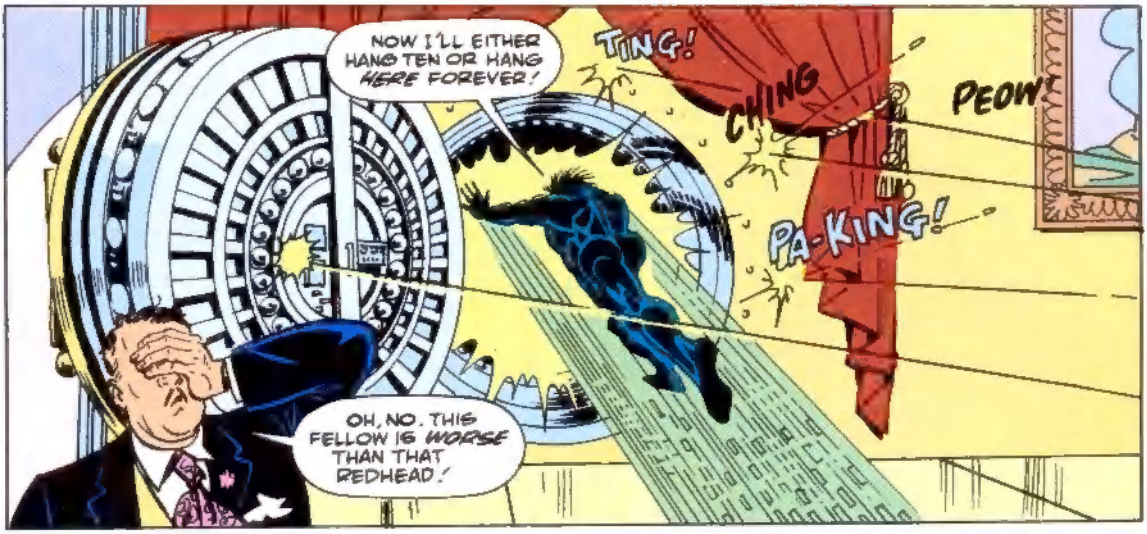

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING VALUABLE, WHERE DO YOU HIDE IT? IN A VAULT!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND THE ENTRY CODE TO THE NEXT LEVEL AND PUNCH IT UP!

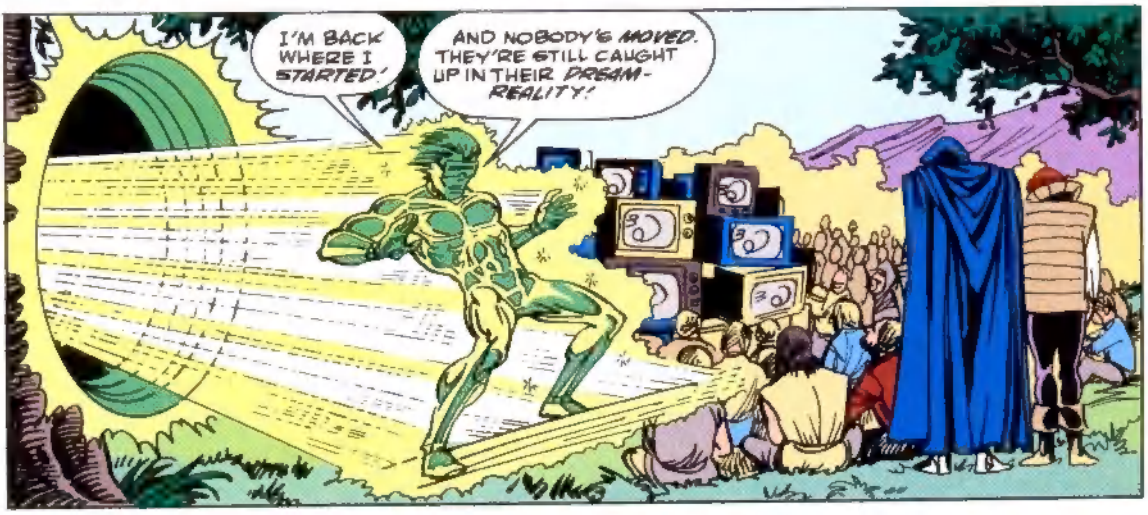
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
Oo! Oo! WHAT'S THAT GUY TRYING TA DO... CRACK THE SAFE?

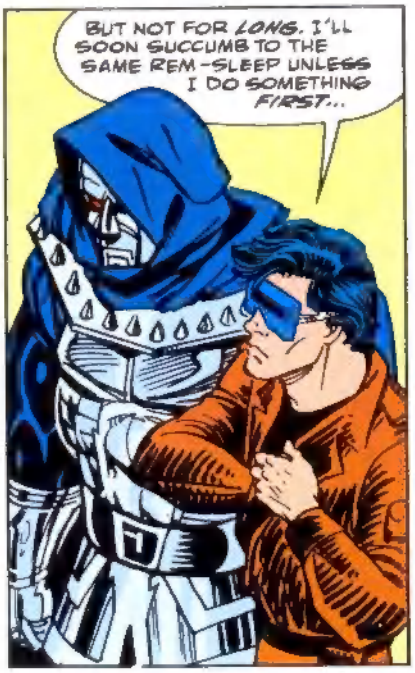
WATCH OUT! I NEED PERFECT SILENCE IF I'M TO ACCESS THE CODE NUMBER!

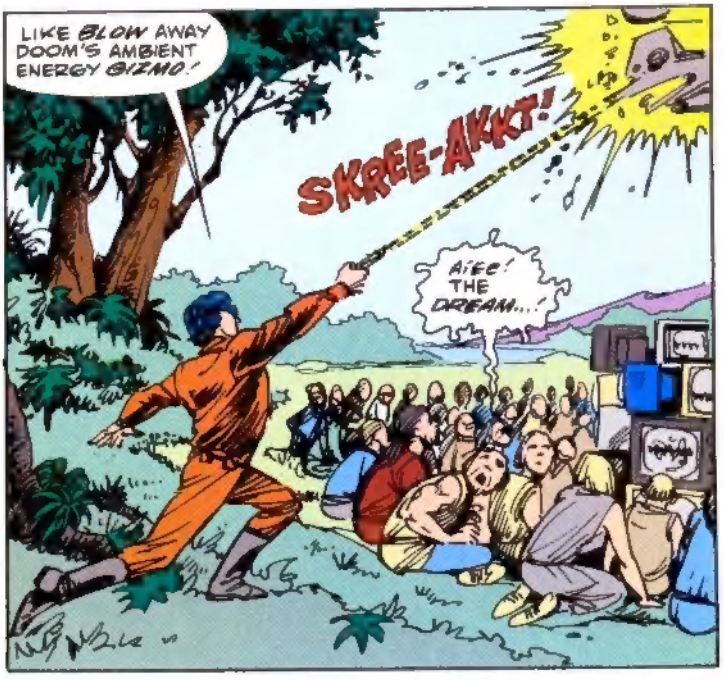
YOU HEARD THE MAN. HE NEEDS PERFECT SILENCE.
uh... HANG ON A SECOND, FRANCIS. WE DON'T WANT HIM TA CRACK THE COMBINATION!
PD
PD


SUCCESS! MANUAL OVERRIDE!


NOW I'LL EITHER HANG TEN OR HANG HERE FOREVER!
TING!
CHING
PEOW!
PA-KING!
OH, NO. THIS FELLOW IS WORSE THAN THAT REDHEAD!

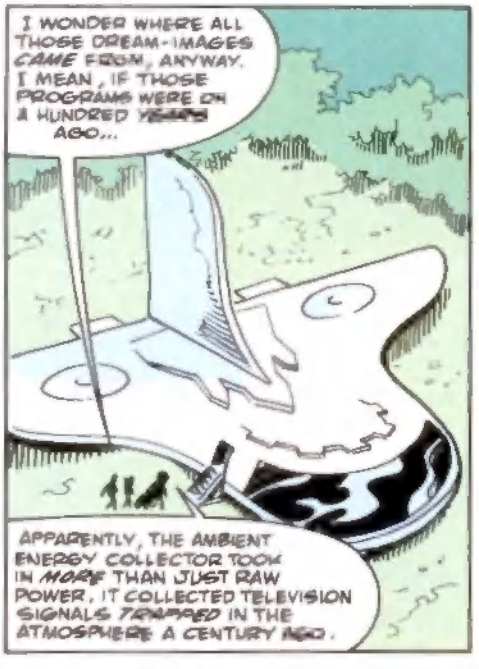

I'M BACK WHERE I STARTED!
AND NOBODY'S MOVED. THEY'RE STILL CAUGHT UP IN THEIR DREAM-REALITY!


BUT NOT FOR LONG. I'LL SOON SUCCUMB TO THE SAME REM-SLEEP UNLESS I DO SOMETHING FIRST...


LIKE BLOW AWAY DOOM'S AMBIENT ENERGY GIZMO!
SKREE-AKKT!
AIEE! THE DREAM...!

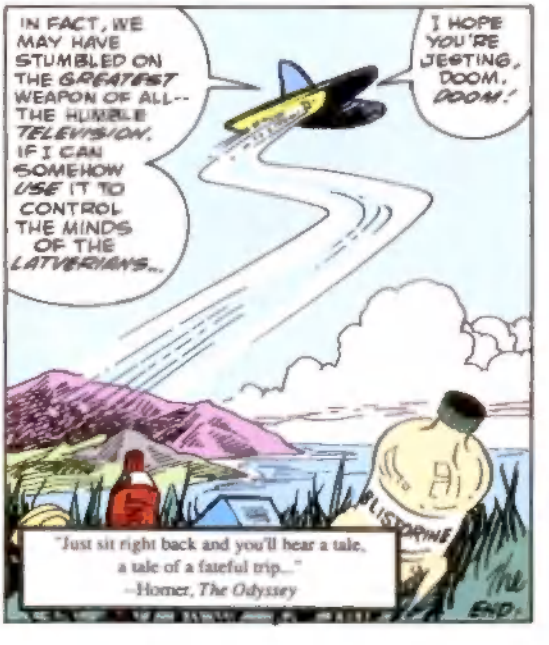
OUR LEADERS! WHERE ARE THEY? WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WHERE... WHERE AM I?
WE WERE TRAPPED IN ANOTHER FRAME OF REFERENCE-- THE ONE WE SAW ON THE SCREENS. THANKS TO WIRE, WE'RE BACK NOW.
CLANG
BRING BACK OUR LEADERS!
RETURN OUR SPIRITUAL GUIDES!
RINSO
WHEAT GERM
FOOLS! WE HAVE DONE YOU A FAVOR. WE'VE FREED YOU FROM YOUR CHAINS OF SELF-DELUSION.
AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY US?
KOOM

COME. OUR BUSINESS HERE IS CONCLUDED.
GOOD THING, TOO, WE'RE NOT ALL WEARING ARMOR.


I WONDER WHERE ALL THOSE DREAM-IMAGES CAME FROM, ANYWAY. I MEAN, IF THOSE PROGRAMS WERE ON A HUNDRED YEARS AGO...
APPARENTLY, THE AMBIENT ENERGY COLLECTOR TOOK IN MORE THAN JUST RAW POWER. IT COLLECTED TELEVISION SIGNALS TRAPPED IN THE ATMOSPHERE A CENTURY AGO.

BUT WHICH CAME FIRST? THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLECTIVE MIND POWER OR THE TELEVISION-BASED DREAMTIME?
DIFFICULT TO SAY. BUT THEN, IT IS NOT OUR CONCERN IS IT? WITH THE COLLECTOR DESTROYED, THE REST IS ACADEMIC.

I JUST WISH I COULD HAVE SALVAGED THE COLLECTOR SOMEHOW...
NO NEED FOR APOLOGY, WIRE, THERE WILL BE OTHER DEVICES, OTHER WEAPONS.


IN FACT, WE MAY HAVE STUMBLED ON THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL-- THE HUMBLE TELEVISION. IF I CAN SOMEHOW USE IT TO CONTROL THE MINDS OF THE LATVERIANS...
I HOPE YOU'RE JESTING, DOOM. DOOM!
LISTERINE
"Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip..." --Homer, The Odyssey
THE END.